

THE JERUSALEM POST
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SHABBAT
Jerusalem
 Tel Aviv
 Haifa

BEGINS
 4:02 p.m.
 4:20 p.m.
 4:00 p.m.

ENDS
 5:17 p.m.
 5:19 p.m.
 5:16 p.m.

THE JERUSALEM POST

Vol. LV, No. 16703 Friday, December 18, 1987 • Kislev 27, 5748 • Rabia Tani 28, 1408 NIS 2.00 (Est NIS 1.75)

PLASTIC COVER
 87-88
BAZAK
 Guide to Israel
 Free 11-colour map
 Sole Agent: Steinitzky



Mounted police patrol the Gaza beach yesterday.

Israel launches effort to save image hurt by policy in areas

By Jerusalem Post Staff and Agencies
 Israel last night launched a coordinated action aimed at saving its battered image in the wake of worldwide attacks on the security policy in the territories.
 Officials have been taken aback by the vehemence of international reaction to the bloodshed in Gaza and the West Bank. The Foreign Ministry has received a deluge of appeals from Israeli embassies and consulates worried about the country's deteriorating public image.
 An emergency team has been set up to counter the stream of criticism aimed at Jerusalem, which the ministry's director-general Yossi Beilin yesterday described as the worst since the bombing of Beirut in 1982.
 The team, led by assistant director-general Shammai Kahana, will coordinate reaction to criticism from abroad and ensure that Israeli leaders and missions overseas are kept up to date with information.
 However, Foreign Ministry officials admitted yesterday that it would be very difficult to fight TV pictures of wounded Palestinians with fact sheets and briefings.
 The first sign that actions in the territories could rebound against Israeli institutions abroad came yesterday in Cyprus when some 200 Cypriot Palestinian demonstrators hurled stones at the embassy in Nicosia, smashing several windows and raising the PLO flag on the railings.
 Israel's efforts to persuade the world that Palestinian demonstrators are being shot only when soldiers' lives are at risk. Yesterday's picture of a plainclothes security man blasting away with an Uzi at fleeing protesters in Gaza was particularly damaging, said Foreign Ministry sources.
 Reports streaming into the ministry from abroad indicate widespread

Tense quiet prevails in Gaza Strip

By BRADLEY BURSTON, ELAINE RUTH FLETCHER and ANDY COURT
Jerusalem Post Reporters
 GAZA — Amid a massive military presence yesterday, a tense quiet prevailed in most of the Gaza Strip, though demonstrations and commercial strikes continued in a number of areas. The West Bank was relatively calm with the focus of protest moving to East Jerusalem and Arab areas just north of the city.
 In the Jabalya refugee camp and in the northern Gaza Shajia neighborhood, youths erected barricades, chanted slogans, and burned tyres, but troops kept their distances. Towards evening, unrest flared again in the southern Gaza town of Rafiah.
 Near Shifa Hospital here, youths threw two petrol bombs at a passing army jeep. No injuries were reported. Scores of youths arrested during the eight-day wave of violent unrest were put on trial here yesterday in a central Gaza military court.
 Meanwhile, troops ordered residents of refugee camps and urban neighborhoods to clear the last barricades from major intersections and highways. Despite the cleared roads and a widespread show of force by Border Police convoys and large patrols of elite infantry units, the tens of thousands of workers employed in Israel stayed home for the most part. Most of the shops also remained closed, and in some areas of Gaza City, troops reportedly welded shut the locks striking merchants had placed on their stores.
 In the Khan Yunis refugee camp, scene of a number of recent shootings of demonstrators, relatives and friends of youths killed during the disturbances gathered to mourn. Houses of mourning were designated by palm wreaths holding roses and photographs of the dead.
 About 200 residents of the Balata refugee camp outside Nablus marched with a group of left-wing Israeli women who had come to lay wreaths on the graves of three Palestinians killed here a week ago. The army later clamped a curfew on the camp, in what military sources said was a response to renewed disturbances.
 The visit, organized by the Rakah Communists, included a dozen women, among them attorney Felicia Langer. A handful of the women managed to reach the graves, despite a closure of the area by troops, who tried to bar the group from entering.
 A few marched forward into the camp with a crowd that swelled quickly from a few dozen to hundreds of Palestinians, including a contingent from Nablus women's organizations. Chanting "God is Great" and waving a Palestinian flag, they peacefully circled Balata twice and visited the gravesite.
 (Continued on back page)

The troubled territories — pages 5,6 and 7

Israeli Arab solidarity strike with territories seen likely

By DAVID RUDGE
SHFARAM—Israeli Arabs seem set to stage a one-day general strike at the beginning of next week in solidarity with the "rebellion" in the territories and in protest against the government's "iron-fist" policies there.
 The national secretariat of Arab local council heads meeting here yesterday decided to recommend either a complete work stoppage or a day of demonstrations, parades and rallies in Arab towns and villages throughout the country.
 The recommendations are to be put before a mass meeting in Shfaram today of council heads, Arab Knesset members, teachers' and students' representatives, Arab Histadrut officials and community leaders.
 Judging from the mood at yesterday's meeting and among Israeli Arabs generally, the strike call is likely to be adopted.
 "We want to shock the government and the people of Israel into realizing what is happening. We cannot, for one moment, think that liberal and broad-minded people accept with equanimity the brutal tactics that have been adopted by the security forces in the territories," said Nizar Murkos, head of the Kfar Yasif council in Galilee and a member of the National Committee of Arab Local Councils.
 Members of Communist Party (Rakah) and the radical Sons of the Village Movement have been distributing leaflets in Arab towns and villages calling on the residents to protest against the violence and support the residents of the territories "in their fight for liberty and independence."
 The calls have been answered by demonstrations on university campuses throughout the country, on the streets of Nazareth, in the villages and among pro-Syrian Druse living in what they described as "the occupied Golan Heights."
 Yesterday, the National Committee of Arab Local Councils added its voice to the growing clamour of opposition with a strongly worded statement condemning the "brutal action" used by the security forces.
 "We also call on the government to rethink its present policies and work towards a peaceful solution under the auspices of a UN-sponsored international peace conference," said Murkos.
 He emphatically denied reports that terrorist groups, notably the PLO, were behind the wave of unrest in the territories and were trying to organize similar disturbances among Israeli Arabs.
 Murkos stressed that Arabs within the Green Line wanted to remain citizens of Israel, even though thousands had family ties with residents of the territories. They had no intention of moving to a Palestinian state, if one was set up alongside Israel, he added.

Nissim's budget proposals may provoke cabinet crisis

BY AVI TEMKIN
Post Economic Reporter
 Tensions between the Labour Party and the Likud rose yesterday, as the budget proposals submitted by Finance Minister Moshe Nissim threatened to become the focus of intense inter-party fighting.
 Sources have not ruled out a cabinet crisis over the budget.
 The cabinet is due to vote on the budget on Sunday, but Labour Party ministers are expected to ask for a further delay, until the return to Israel of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin.
 Labour Party ministers and party representatives at the Histadrut central committee are due to meet today to discuss the budget proposals. Some participants are expected to demand a united party stand against the budget. Labour is expected to firmly oppose user charges in the health services and tuition in secondary schools, two measures being proposed by the Treasury.
 The Likud Knesset faction has said that if Labour does not vote for the budget, it would be the end of the national unity government.
 But some Likud ministers, Ariel Sharon, Moshe Katsav and Haim Corfu, have also expressed opposition to Nissim's budget proposals.
Jeff Black adds:
 Histadrut trade unionists yesterday threatened a wide-ranging campaign against Nissim's budget plans. At a plenary meeting of the Trade Union Department, officials termed the budget anti-social, claiming that it placed the burden of funding education and health on the backs of the workers and the needy.

Herzog holds record for overspending

By AVI TEMKIN and JUDY SIEGEL
 President Herzog holds the record for budgetary excess for the current fiscal year, according to sources in the Knesset Finance Committee. Based on recent requests for additional funding tabled at the committee, Beit Hanassi has been allocated some NIS 2.5 million, 40 per cent more than the NIS 1.8m. approved in the state budget.
 According to the sources, most of the excess spending went to finance Herzog's trips abroad. The committee this week approved an allocation of NIS 214,000 to finance Herzog's visit to Scandinavia and the U.S.
 Beit Hanassi sources yesterday denied that there was any overspending. They said that the NIS 1.8 million allocation was meant to cover only regular operating expenses. Beit Hanassi, said the sources, has never had a separate development budget. Whenever money must be spent on "special, one-time" items, Beit Hanassi officials must present the request to the Treasury and the Knesset Finance Committee.
 The extra NIS 700,000 financed the president's four trips abroad this year, maintenance at the President's residence and additional security arrangements.
 Herzog has taken more trips abroad than any of his predecessors. Prof. Ephraim Katzir, the fourth president, rarely left the country during his five years in office. Yitzhak Navon, the fifth president, went abroad only three times during his five-year-term. But Herzog has travelled over a dozen times since taking office in May, 1983.
 Beit Hanassi sources note that "the British newspapers calmed down and changed their tune in their reporting on the West Bank and Gaza disturbances" after meeting with Herzog earlier this week.

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HOME NEWS

U.S. gives go-ahead to Popeye

By WOLF BLITZER
Jerusalem Post Reporter
WASHINGTON— U.S. Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci has given the go-ahead to the initial testing and evaluation of the Israeli-made Popeye stand-off air-to-ground missile for possible purchase by the U.S. military, authoritative sources said yesterday.

Carlucci informed Israel of the decision during Defence Minister Rabin's visit to Washington earlier this week.

At the same time, Carlucci also notified Rabin of the U.S. decision to fund 80 per cent of the initial research and development costs of a new Israeli-made anti-tactical ballistic missile (ATBM). Israel would fund the balance.

Both decisions represent potentially significant boosts for Israel's defence industries. The Popeye is manufactured by Rafael. The ATBM project involves Israel Aircraft Industries.

If both contracts are eventually signed, well-placed sources here said, they could bring Israel hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue.

Rabin, after touring the U.S. Military Academy at West Point on Wednesday, yesterday flew from New York to Texas to inspect other U.S. military installations. He was flown on a U.S. Air Force plane as guest of the American government.

U.S. and Israeli officials said the Pentagon had organized for Rabin elaborate demonstrations of the latest U.S.-made high-technology weapons systems, including the Blackhawk helicopter.

Italian president on unofficial visit

Post Diplomatic Correspondent
Italian President Francesco Cossiga arrives here today for a three-day unofficial, goodwill visit during which he is scheduled to meet with senior officials and to visit Catholic pilgrimage sites in Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Galilee.

Cossiga, who will be accompanied by Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, top Italian officials and scores of Italian journalists, is to meet with President Herzog, Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Peres.

Shamir to Mubarak: Play peace role

By ASHER WALLFISH
Jerusalem Post Reporter
Prime Minister Shamir this week sent a message to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak urging him to convene a tripartite peace conference, to be attended by Egypt, Israel and Jordan.

Shamir wrote that the recent Amman summit, which enhanced Egypt's prestige so significantly, gave Mubarak a one-time opportunity for an initiative which would ameliorate the Middle East situation, by influencing King Hussein of Jordan to open direct negotiations with Israel.

Shamir reiterated his long-standing opposition to an international conference as "an obstacle to peace."



A demonstration in the Balata refugee camp outside Nablus yesterday.

(C. Nuttkiewicz/Media)

The man shooting the Uzi in Gaza easy to recognize as security man

By HIRSH GOODMAN

Within seconds of viewing the opening item on Wednesday night's Mabat news programme, the upper echelons of the defence establishment knew they had a serious problem.

They did not need to wait for the next day's afternoon newspapers to tell them that the man seen shooting an Uzi submachine gun at an unseen, shoulder-level target in a built-up area of Gaza was a security man. This was immediately obvious to them from the professional way in which the man handled his weapon: running, crouching, aiming and then firing in well-disciplined bursts — all the hallmarks of a highly trained soldier.

It was also obvious that the man was a security agent from the behaviour of the four soldiers who were with him. Instead of trying to stop him, as standing orders would have demanded, they paid absolutely no attention to him. From this it was clear that he was their commander and therefore a member of the security services, not a civilian.

The uproar yesterday in the defence establishment

over the incident was considerable. Sensitive to international criticism that was mounting over the rising casualty toll of Palestinians, the political establishment had given the army instructions to obey strictly the standing orders on using weapons in the territories: open fire only if left with no other option; first, fire warning shots into the air; if threatened, fire at ground level, aiming no higher than the feet.

The security agent Wednesday obeyed none of these orders. He rushed out of the vehicle when it approached several burning tyres that shortly before had been placed half way across the road by some youngsters. From what could be seen on TV, nothing was being thrown at the vehicle or its five occupants, when the security man opened fire at body level.

The man in question was reportedly charged yesterday and will be tried — probably on a disciplinary charge. This, however, will not lessen the anger of his superiors, who, apparently, are as furious with the man for allowing himself to be photographed in the act as they are for his disobeying orders.

Border Police defends conduct in Balata camp

Jerusalem Post Reporter
A Border Police source yesterday defended the conduct of the force in the Balata refugee camp and opposed any punitive steps against its officers.

The Border Police company, which was sent into Balata last Wednesday, reportedly beat and humiliated residents, broke into homes, and smashed furniture and windows.

The IDF, which oversees Border Police activities in the territories, investigated the complaints, determining that excessive force had been used. "It is possible that here and there people were hit unjustifiably, and property was damaged," a senior military source told reporters.

However, the Border Police source argued that it was the residents' attacks — with iron rods, sling shots and bicycle chains — that had caused the trouble.

The source insisted that the commanders of the unit operating in Balata will not be punished for their men's conduct. "There have been no personnel changes — and there is no reason to make any," he told The Jerusalem Post. "The same commander will still be there in a year's time."

Six gunmen killed in Security Zone clash

By DAVID RUDGE

Jerusalem Post Reporter
METULLA — Six gunmen were killed by IDF troops in heavy fighting inside the Security Zone in South Lebanon after Wednesday midnight.

The army spokesman reported that there were no casualties among the IDF soldiers involved in the gun battle, in the central sector of the zone, northwest of the Hazbiyah village.

Earlier, gunmen, believed to have been members of the fanatical Iranian-backed Hizbullah had attempted to storm a South Lebanese Army stronghold.

The attackers were reportedly repulsed by heavy fire from the SLA troops manning the position. IDF troops in the region joined in the battle, killing six of the gunmen who had been involved in the abortive assault.

A large quantity of weapons, including Katyusha rocket-launchers, RPGs, rifles and other arms, was found at the scene of the battle along with the bodies of the terrorists.

SLA sources reported that none of their troops was hurt in the fighting. The incident was the latest in a recent series of clashes with gunmen, mainly from the Hizbullah.

Introducing 'K.M.' - the Demjanjuk lookalike

By ERNIE MEYER

Jerusalem Post Reporter
A mysterious new person, identified only as "K.M.," made his appearance in the Demjanjuk trial yesterday. Defence witness Prof. Yasser Mehmed Iscan showed the 37-minute video film he had prepared to demonstrate his theories on the limitations of photo identification.

As the silent colour film rolled on, the judges and the sparse audience got to know K.M. better.



DEMJEANJUK ON TRIAL

He was the 60-year old colleague Iscan had selected to appear as counterpart to John Demjanjuk. Why his full name was not revealed, was not explained. But with his round face and bald pate, K.M. seemed—at least frontally—to resemble Demjanjuk.

In general, it was movie day at the trial yesterday.

The first two hours were taken up with Iscan critically reviewing the video film that anthropology professor Patricia Smith, testifying for the prosecution, had shown the court in May. Three video screens were set up in court: a large one facing the judges and smaller ones facing the defence and the public.

Iscan was seated in front of the large screen, with his back to the bench. He controlled the speed at which the film proceeded and using a pointer, kept up a running commentary.

Smith had used a film taken of Demjanjuk at the Ramle jail. He was not wearing his glasses and as a result of the strong light shining on

him was constantly squinting. Smith had selected one frame where the tilt of Demjanjuk's head most resembled that in his 1942 photo of the Trawniki identity card. On this photo, she superimposed later photos whose authenticity was not in doubt.

Her technique was to compare the photos. She either pulled them vertically up and down over the original like a window-blind. Or she moved them horizontally, like a sliding door. In another exercise, she moved a rectangular "box" up and down or across the original photo.

Smith had used her film to show that the person in the Trawniki photo was identical with Demjanjuk as he appeared in later photos of undisputed authenticity. Iscan now painstakingly went over the same superimpositions and pointed out what to him seemed discrepancies. He singled out the tips of the ears, the shape of the eyebrows and the chin line.

He frequently used the term "fuzzy" in his comments, yet graciously complimented Smith on her effort.

The monotonous exercise was only interrupted once, when what sounded like a pistol shot rang through the hall. But it was only one of the Klieg lights used by the TV crews that had blown out.

Defence lawyer Paul Chumak finally asked Iscan: "Based on the Smith film, what is your opinion of the authenticity of the Trawniki photo?"

Iscan replied: "One image hides the effect of the other image. The images are not taken under controlled conditions. Therefore, I cannot say whether they are or are not of the same person. The result is indeterminate."

After the 11 a.m. recess, it was the turn of Iscan to show his film, which

(Continued on back page)

Possible Israel-Poland rift averted

The head of the Polish Interest Section in Israel, Stefan Kwiatkowski, yesterday expressed his satisfaction that Israel and Poland had averted a possible rift in connection with the planned commemoration of the 45th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, due to be held in Warsaw in April.

Responding to a Polish clarification

this week that no mention of Israel's "policy of expansion" would be made at the ceremonies, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Wednesday that Israel "noted with satisfaction that an incident which could have adversely affected the ceremonies themselves, as well as the atmosphere of Polish-Jewish relations, has come to an end."

In deep sorrow, we announce the death of

MORDECHAI SHAFRAN

The funeral will take place today, Friday, December 18, 1987. We will depart from the Shafraim home at 5 Ha'ithud Street, Hod Hasharon, at 12 noon, for the new Neve Hadar cemetery.

Carol, Ariel, Adea and Shai Shafraim
Dafna and Yigal Weiss and Children

To Mrs. Lichtner and the Neu Family
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On the thirtieth day after the passing of

Samuel DANIEL MULLER

there will be a memorial service and unveiling of the tombstone on Friday, December 25, 1987 (4 Tevet 5748) at 12 noon, at the military section of the old Ra'anana cemetery, Rehov Klausner.
We shall meet at the gate.

Parents, Sharon and Maurice, and son, Gerald

Two years have passed since our beloved, unforgettable

ALEXANDER PAPP

Ploesti — Bucharest — Haifa
was taken from us.

We wish to thank again all those friends and acquaintances who were with us in our deep sorrow.

His wife: Matilda and the family

The late

BERTHA (Basha) ZELINGER

beloved mother of Mr. Eli Chaim Zeligler, Rabbi Ya'akov Yitzchok Zeligler, and Mrs. Harriet Polanski is being reinterred in Israel.

The funeral procession will set out at 1:15 p.m. on Thursday, December 24, from the Kamenitz Yeshiva of Jerusalem, 22 Yehezkel Street, and make its way to the Mount of Olives (Section Tav Shin-Het).

Acquaintances and friends of the family are requested to participate.

Kamenitz Yeshiva of Jerusalem

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YESHIVAT HANIVAR

Memorial Shneur to mark the Shloshim of

SARA ROCHEL BROVENDER

to be given by

Rabbi Chaim Brovender

Topic:

Hanukka in the Thought of the Maharal of Prague

The shiur will be given on Tuesday, December 22, 1987 (Rosh Hodesh Tevet) 7th day of Hanukka, at 11:30 a.m. at Yeshivat Hanivvar, Kfar Etzion, Gush Etzion.

Unveiling of tombstone for

ANN L. HIRSHFELD

Thursday, December 24 at 3 p.m., Har Hazeitim Central Cemetery, Section II.

The coffin of the late

BERTHA (Basha) ZELINGER

mother of Mr. Eli Chaim Zeligler, Rabbi Ya'akov Yitzchok Zeligler and Mrs. Harriet Polanski, one of the founders of Yeshivat Toras Emes in Boro Park, and later one of the greatest supporters of Yeshivat Toras Emes Kamenitz New York, is being brought to Jerusalem for reinterment from New York.

The funeral will leave from the Kamenitz Yeshiva of Jerusalem, 22 Yehezkel Street on December 24 at 1:15 p.m. on its way to the Har Hazeitim cemetery. (חלקת תשי"ח)

Yeshivat Toras Emes Kamenitz, New York

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Kamenitz Yeshiva of Jerusalem

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AMSTERDAM	10	10	12	54	Cloudy
BRUSSELS	8	11	12	54	Cloudy
BRUXELLES AERES	10	10	20	60	Rain
CHICAGO	-3	27	0	32	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	2	28	3	32	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	4	20	4	30	Rain
GENEVA	9	12	14	54	Cloudy
Helsinki	-4	19	-4	21	Clear
HONG KONG	13	28	18	64	Clear
JAKARTA	16	31	20	70	Cloudy
LONDON	17	23	18	64	Rain
MADRID	11	23	14	57	Rain
MANNHEIM	9	18	14	57	Cloudy
MONTREAL	-4	28	1	34	Snow
NEW YORK	3	27	5	41	Clear
OSLO	-14	7	-8	21	Clear
PARIS	12	13	14	57	Cloudy
RIO DE JANEIRO	20	28	35	86	Clear
SAO PAULO	18	24	31	87	Cloudy
STOCKHOLM	-15	5	10	14	Clear
TOKYO	5	11	13	55	Clear
TORONTO	-2	28	2	36	Cloudy
VIENNA	1	23	3	32	Rain
ZURICH	6	14	17	63	Cloudy

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THE WEATHER

Forecast: Rain
Outlook for Shabbat: same.

Jerusalem	Humidity	Yesterday's Max	Today's Max
Jerusalem	45	13-19	17
Golan	48	11-17	15
Nahariya	—	—	—
Safad	51	8-16	13
Haifa Port	60	12-22	20
Tiberias	61	10-20	20
Nazareth	62	13-19	18
Afula	63	9-22	20
Shomron	64	11-20	19
Tel Aviv	75	12-20	20
B. Airport	77	11-20	20
Jericho	47	11-24	23
Gaza	81	14-20	22
Beerseba	66	10-20	20
Eilat	53	15-24	24

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

Ceremonies marking the 10th anniversary of the death of Meyer W. Weisgal, president and later chancellor of the Weizmann Institute of Science, were held yesterday at the institute. MK Abba Eban spoke at the graveside ceremony. Participating in the memorial programme, directed by Gershon Plotkin and presided over by Prof. David Samuel, were Minister without Portfolio Ezer Weizman, institute deputy president Shmuel Shatler, actress Hanna Marron and actor Shmuel Atzmon, and singer Tova Porat.

Meet riots head-on with force - Gur

By ABRAHAM RABINOVICH

Jerusalem Post Reporter
MK Mordechai Gur may be one of the more pronounced doves in the Labour Party but when it comes to riot suppression, the former chief of general staff is not much less hard-nosed than hawkish ex-generals.

Gur, who commanded the Gaza Strip for two years after the Six Day War and dealt with major disturbances there, said in an interview yesterday that riots must be met head-on with force that will both overwhelm and deter.

"First of all, you've got to concentrate large forces to deal with it, very large forces, and not to spread soldiers around in small groups. If you had enough troops, there wouldn't be any need to shoot. People forget, but at one time we even had tanks in Nablus," Gur said his remarks were not intended as criticism of the handling of the current round of unrest.

Force must be directed at the main points of disturbance, he said, and "stone-throwers and inciters" seized. It would be necessary to arrest at most dozens, he said, not hundreds.

Sending troops into riot areas was not a provocation, said Gur, but a basic demand of public order.

Gur believes that the current disorders, even if they began spontaneously, were soon fanned by the PLO leadership in Jordan and the territories.

For all his hard-line approach at a tactical level, Gur noted that he agrees with the Labour party platform which calls for resolution of the Israel-Palestinian conflict by a peace agreement based on territorial compromise.

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Jakes in; Husak out in Czechoslovakia

PRAGUE (AP) — President Gustav Husak, who took over Czechoslovakia's Communist Party from the ill-fated Alexander Dubcek, stepped down yesterday as party leader and was replaced by politburo member Milos Jakes.

Husak had been party leader for 18 years. He retains the presidency, a more formal and less powerful office than general-secretary of the Communist Party, and his seat on the presidium, or ruling party politburo.

The official news agency CTK said Husak, who is 74 and has suffered from poor sight for several years, asked to be relieved of the top party post and to retire from the influential central committee secretariat, which formulates day-to-day party policy.

Husak had been head of Czechoslovakia's Communist Party since April 1969, when Dubcek was ousted following a Soviet-led War-

saw Pact invasion in August 1968 that crushed Dubcek's "Prague spring" reforms.

CTK said the central committee, meeting in closed session yesterday, "highly appreciated" Husak's work as head of the party and thanked him for many years of "creative and fruitful activity."

CTK indicated the handover of party leadership was accomplished by agreement between Husak and his 65-year-old successor. It said Husak proposed Jakes for general-secretary and that Jakes was elected unanimously.

Jakes is a longtime member of the Conservative Communist leadership that became the hallmark of Husak's term in office and it is not thought likely that he will push for radical reforms in Czechoslovakia.

As chairman of the party's watchdog control and auditing commission from 1968 to December 1977, Jakes presided over the ouster of 461,751 party members in the

purges that followed Dubcek's departure. Jakes has been a member of the powerful central committee secretariat since 1977 and most recently chaired the economic commission in charge of party economic policy.

CTK quoted him as telling yesterday's central committee meeting "that he will contribute with all his strength to the successful fulfillment of the revolutionary mission of the party and the tasks put before it at the present time."

Jakes thanked Husak for his 18 years of party work and wished him "many more years" of political life in the presidency and as a politburo member, CTK said.

Since Mikhail Gorbachev became Kremlin leader in March 1985, the Prague leadership is thought to have come under increasing pressure to follow some of the economic and political reforms Gorbachev has introduced and advocated.

However, Czechoslovakia has

embarked only cautiously on economic reforms. The central committee is expected to sign off on further cautious changes in a reform programme officials have said they intend to have fully in place only in 1990. It is difficult for the Prague leadership, installed after Dubcek's reforms were crushed, to do a political about-face and adopt some of the same changes now advocated by Gorbachev, such as multi-candidate party elections and a less centralized economy.

Gorbachev cabled congratulations from Moscow last night, saying Jakes "will ensure the implementation of the extensive tasks facing the Czechoslovak party, the tasks of further development and revival of socialism in Czechoslovakia." of restructuring the economy and democratizing political life. The wording suggested the Kremlin leader sees Jakes as one who will carry out Soviet-style policies.



Antonio Cinila, 38, acquitted for lack of evidence in the Palermo Mafia trial was shot dead on Wednesday as he arrived home to celebrate his freedom. (AFP)

338 gangsters get 3,000 years in prison

Sicilian court deals massive blow to Mafia

PALERMO, Sicily (Reuters) — A Palermo court dealt Italy's biggest legal blow against the Mafia, sentencing 19 gangsters to life imprisonment and jailing 319 others for a total of nearly 3,000 years.

After a 22-month trial, two judges and a jury of two men and four women largely accepted the prosecution claim that the Mafia existed as a highly-organized criminal society with a ruling "commission" which sanctioned its crimes and killings.

Among those sentenced to life on Wednesday for murder were Michele "The Pope" Greco, 63, said to have been the Mafia's "boss of bosses," and six other members of the commission. Others jailed for life included some of the Mafia's most ruthless killers — like Vincenzo "The Tempest" Sinagra and Filippo Marchese, leader of the Corso dei Mille clan.

The prosecution said Marchese was a sadist who ran a torture chamber and disposed of victims in vats of sulphuric acid. Marchese, like seven others sentenced to life in jail, is still on the run.

The prosecution case hinged on whether the jurors, who spent five weeks considering their verdict in a specially-built, heavily-guarded courtroom next to Palermo Jail, would believe the evidence of more than a dozen informers. Most important of these Mafia turncoats was Tommaso Buscetta, the first big boss to inform on a large scale, who claimed that the "commission" had to approve all major crimes.

His evidence led to the indictment of Greco for 78 murders, including the trial's central crime — the 1982 killing of Palermo prefect Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa, his young wife and their bodyguard.

Assistant Judge Pietro Grasso told reporters after the verdict, which took court president Alfonso



Mafia 'godfather' Michele 'The Pope' Greco standing behind bars hears the verdict in the Palermo court on Wednesday. (AFP)

Giordano 90 minutes to read at high speed: "We believed that Michele Greco was the head of the commission, responsible with others for having inspired the Mafia war." This was a reference to a bloody clan conflict in the late 1970s and early 1980s in which up to 600 people were killed.

The war was won by the ruthless Corleonesi clan and their allies who wiped out their enemies, including 14 members of Buscetta's family, as well as police, judges and officials.

But Luciano Liggio, 62, the leader of the Corleonesi, was acquitted at this trial. Liggio, sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of a mafia rival, has been in jail since 1974. The prosecution had claimed he continued to run his criminal empire from his cell.

Buscetta, believed to be under police protection in the U.S. drew a light three-and-a-half year sentence for Mafia association. Another leading informer, Salvatore Contorno, also believed to be hiding out in a secret place in America, got six years.

A first authorized glimpse inside a Soviet gulag

PARIS (Reuters) — A dramatic film taken inside a Soviet labour camp by French television has given the West its first authorized glimpse into the gulag penal system.

Haggard, old men with shaven heads sit hunched over metal bowls of this fish soup in a section of the footage taken by the Antenne-2 team during a guided tour of the camp two weeks ago. The film was broadcast in France yesterday evening.

"That old man was spooning out all the fish bones. I think if he had spoken he would have called it bone soup," cameraman Jean-Jacques le Garrec told Reuters during a screening at the network's Paris headquarters.

Antenne-2's human rights programme Résistances got unexpected

authorization to film inside the camp, near Ryazan, about 200 kilometres southeast of Moscow.

The visit, a sensational example of the new policy of glasnost took place just a few days before Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev went to Washington to sign a medium-range nuclear missile ban treaty.

The prison director, who accompanied the film crew, set two conditions: no interviews with the inmates and no encounters with psychotics or mentally-ill detainees. "Whether this meant dissidents or political prisoners is impossible to say," le Garrec added. The crew were refused permission to film inside a Soviet mental hospital.

Le Garrec's film shows the all-male camp population of 400 eating,

working and sleeping. A thin scattering of snow lay on the ground as a column of inmates, dressed against the cold in dark-grey padded cotton jackets and typical fur hats, lined up outside the prison mess with what looked like a guard, wearing an armband, in charge.

Few looked directly into the camera, but one smiled and another gave a quick wave of his hand. Uniformed guards in greatcoats watched as they took off their hats, but not their coats, to sit at plain wooden tables where the fish soup and a simple noodle dish were ladled out of large pots into the metal bowls.

The men ate with spoons, holding slices of rough bread cut from the loaf placed on each table. Some chat-

ted, but most seemed intent on their meal. The director of the penal colony, the local police commander and a political commissar for Ryazan accompanied the French crew on the 50-minute tour.

Inmates who had reported sick were filmed resting on red stools or sleeping in metal framed double-bunk beds in a cramped but well-lit dormitory, where a booted guard was on duty. All remained silent. Some seemed scared of the camera, others merely listless.

Le Garrec, stopping the film periodically and noting the deep lines in the faces of the men, said he had been struck by the similarities with the film of Alexander Solzhenitsyn's book One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich. The movie, faithful to

Solzhenitsyn's description of his own experiences in the gulag, contains faces, clothes and scenes almost identical to those filmed by le Garrec. The exiled Soviet writer later wrote an encyclopedic account of the gulag system in three volumes.

The camp holds prisoners sentenced to from 1-13 years. Soviet officials told the French team. The prison was chosen by the Soviet authorities and le Garrec said he assumed it was "cleaned up" for presentation.

Some prisoners worked at a sawmill, cutting rough planks and timber which others fashioned into crude crates, perhaps for vegetables. A simple metalwork and assembly workshop was also shown.

Carrier-bag bomb kills Londonderry man

LONDONDERRY (Reuters) — Two bombs in carrier bags killed a Roman Catholic and wounded 15 other people, one a three-year-old girl, on Wednesday night, Northern Ireland police reported.

The bombs exploded in the mainly Protestant Tullygalley housing estate on the outskirts of Londonderry, demolishing the front of one house and damaging about 50 others.

A retired milkman, identified by neighbours as Gerry Doherty, aged about 60, was pulled dead from the wreckage of his home. Police said many of the injured were children but none was believed seriously hurt.

Eleven people attending a war memorial service at Enniskillen were killed last month when an Irish Republican guerrilla bomb exploded by the town's main square.

Reagan crony faces 15 years in jail for lying

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — Michael Deaver, one of President and Mrs. Reagan's closest friends, faces up to 15 years in jail after being found guilty of lying about using White House connections to boost his lobbying business.

After the verdict on Wednesday, Deaver issued a statement saying: "Nancy and I are sorry to learn of the jury's decision."

Deaver's lawyers said they

planned to appeal his conviction and admitted they may have made a mistake in resting his case without calling a single witness.

Deaver, 49, who resigned as White House deputy chief of staff in May 1985 to start a lucrative Washington lobbying business, was convicted of one charge of perjury before a Congressional sub-committee and two charges of giving false declaration to a grand jury.

U.S. Congress votes to sell Stinger missiles to Bahrain

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — Congressional negotiators voted Wednesday night to sell Bahrain sophisticated, shoulder-held Stinger missiles.

Negotiators from the House of Representatives and Senate agreed to a Senate provision in a funding bill.

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Zvi Stolper.

South Korean opposition alleges poll fraud

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea was tense but generally quiet yesterday as Roh Tae-Woo claimed victory in the country's presidential election and opposition politicians denounced what they said was massive fraud at the polls.

Riot police fired tear gas to disperse stone-throwing protesters in the southern opposition stronghold of Kwangju, while in an industrial district near Seoul, about 2,000 people readied sticks and firebombs to guard a ballot box they said was proof of election cheating.

But the incidents were minor compared to both the massive protests in June that forced the government to restore direct elections, and the passionate and sometimes violent rallies that characterized the month-long electoral campaign. A rumored demonstration outside Seoul's city hall never materialized.

With about 97 per cent of the ballots counted yesterday evening, Roh had 36 per cent, or 8,077 million votes, a lead of nearly 2 m. over runner-up Kim Young-Sam, with 6.12 m. votes, state-owned television said.



Roh Tae-Woo claims victory in a press conference in Seoul yesterday. (AFP)

The other main opposition candidate, Kim Dae-Jung, was reported to have 5.92 m. The two Kims, who abandoned public pledges of cooperation to run rival campaigns, spurned Roh's invitation to join a "council of democracy and reconciliation." Each told reporters he had been robbed of victory by ruling party cheating and vowed to join with dissidents to expose the alleged fraud and have the vote declared void.

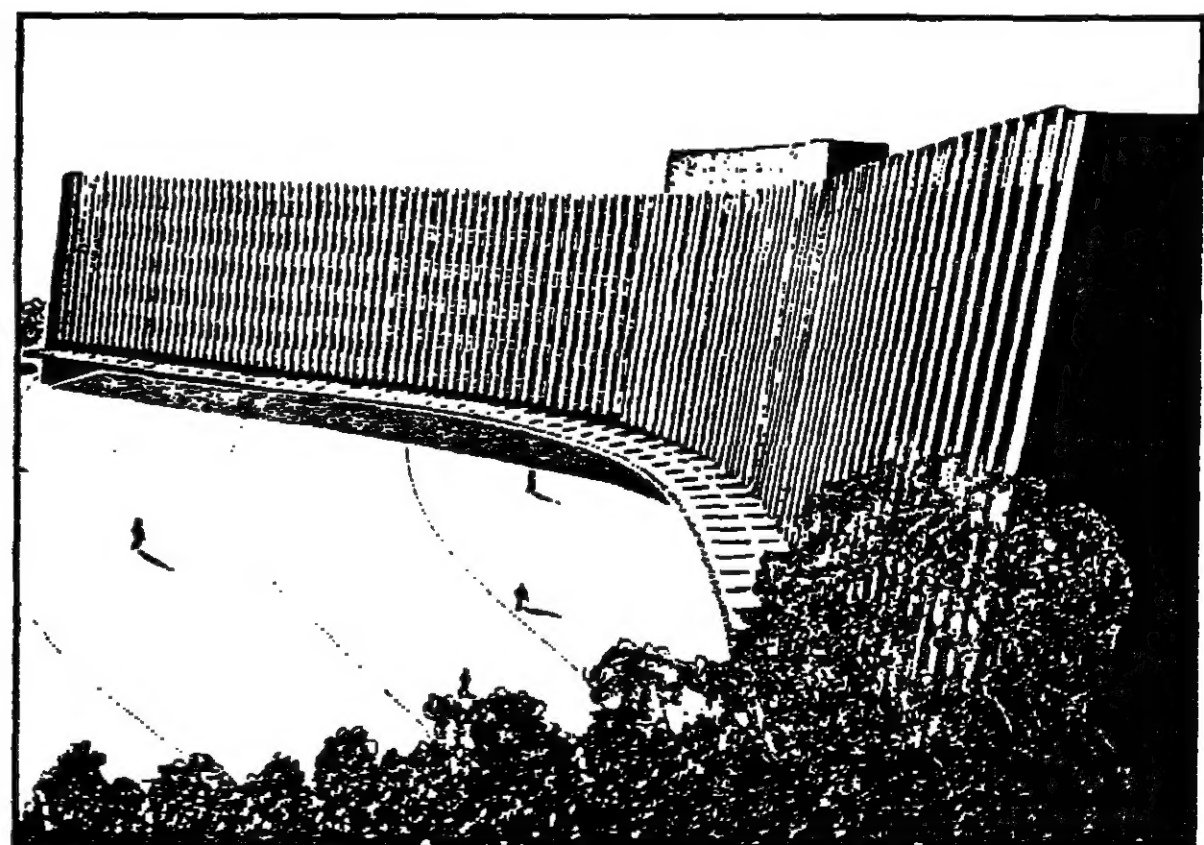
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Suddenly the bus window explodes...

By AARON LEIBEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Eight forty-five yesterday morning, Egged's number 25 bus is rumbling its way through the Arab Quarter of Shuafat, on its way from Neve Ya'acov to downtown Jerusalem.

It is the first day of Hanukkah vacation; the bus is full of noisy children. I am reading Ha'aretz — Yossi Sarid's account of Yitzhak Shamir eating shrimp on a trip to Australia. Sarid certainly has a sharp tongue.

Suddenly the window next to me explodes, covering me with a shower of broken glass. I look up and see that two windows on the other side of the bus, next to a group of ultra-Orthodox children, have also been shattered by rocks.

No one appears to have been badly hurt but most passengers seem dazed. Pandemonium breaks out on the bus. Women and children are screaming. Everyone is yelling at the bus driver, as if it were his fault. The driver is confused. He pulls over and then starts moving again. He stops the bus 200 metres further down the road, across the street from a police van. All the passengers point to the broken window and holler, venting their anger this time on the policemen.

The bus starts up again. "Those damn Arabs," says one man: "We should get them all."

A woman chimes in: "It's our Jews, those Peace Now people."

Another mentions "that Shulamit Aloni."

The bus slows down at the French Hill bus stop where a group of Arabs are waiting to board. The passengers

then down the road, across the street from a police van. All the passengers point to the broken window and holler, venting their anger this time on the policemen.

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BY INVITATION ONLY

Sentimental 'yekkes' attend Midnight Mass

By HAIM SHAPIRO
Jerusalem Post Reporter

When Midnight Mass is celebrated next Thursday at the Dormition Abbey on Mt. Zion in Jerusalem, the greater part of the congregation will undoubtedly be Jews, as in previous years.

Most of those who attend the German-language service are yekkes (German Jews) according to Father Immanuel Jacobs, prior of the Abbey. They come for what he called "sentimental" reasons.

"One year we didn't sing 'Silent Night' and the yekkes complained, so we sang it together with them after the service," he said.

But he stressed that although anyone who wished to come was welcome at the service, the monks are definitely not interested in converting anyone.

"If anything, we push our Jewish friends back to their own religious life. If we have any interest at all, it is to make Jews better Jews, Moslems better Moslems and Christians better Christians," he said.

He also explained that although most of the service is in German, the readings from the Bible are in the original Hebrew language. "The names sound wrong if they are not in Hebrew," he said.

Most Jerusalemites who come in contact with the abbey do so

through the regular concerts held there, especially during the Jerusalem Festival. Over the years, some Orthodox groups have objected to the concerts, but, Jacobs said, those who objected never came to see what was going on.

The theological studies programme for students from Europe, which is the mainstay of the abbey, is also unique. For one thing, Protestants and Catholics study together. Even more exceptional is the fact that there are Jewish and Moslem teachers. It is not unusual for Catholic schools to have non-Catholic lecturers, he admitted, but not in a theological faculty.

Even in the Sunday Mass, the sermon is sometimes given by a Protestant minister and though it hasn't happened yet, there would be "no problem" to have a rabbi. The preacher is also sometimes a woman.

Much of this is the result of the fact that the Benedictine Order, of which the abbey is the only representative in the Middle East, is "quite independent." The Dormition has its own laws and in contrast to most other monasteries, which choose an abbot for life, elects a new abbot every eight years.

At present there are 16 monks, who all joined the order in Jerusalem.

Ultra-Orthodox pair detained in torching

The Jerusalem Magistrates' Court yesterday ordered two ultra-Orthodox men, suspected of torching a bus stop in Jerusalem's Ramot neighbourhood, detained for five days.

The police claimed that the two men, Yosef Asoulin, 26, and Nahman Berland, 23, were apprehended on Wednesday not far from the scene of the crime and shortly after the bus shelter was burned.



Prosper Lugasi, 55, a suspect in the double murder in the Co-op supermarket in the Hamashbir building in Jerusalem at the end of November, is led into the Jerusalem Magistrates' Court yesterday which ordered him detained for 11 days. Lugasi, who was security officer of the Co-op chain until recently, told the court: "I worked for 25 years in the Prisons Authority, how would I do a stupid thing like that?" (Yossi Aloni/TPA)

TAU prehistorian 'slays' touted Neanderthal man

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA — Neanderthal man was slain as the forefather of homo sapiens on Mt. Carmel yesterday — by an anatomy professor.

Carmel man, 50,000 years old, and his close cousin Galilee man, typified by the 100,000-year old "Lady of Taboun" fossil skull "are definitely on the ladder that leads up from homo erectus to homo sapiens," but the much touted Neanderthal man "was only an offshoot with no future," according to Dr. Yoel Rak, of the Tel Aviv University Medical School's anatomy department.

Rak, a leading prehistorian, disclosed the findings of his study for the first time at a convention of the Israel Prehistory Society in the Moshe Steklis Prehistory Museum here. They were based on intensive research of the anatomy, morphology, bone structure and even architecture of the fossilized remains of

skulls and hip bones of Neanderthal man, the Carmelites and the Galileans of antiquity.

Carmel man, discovered in the past half century, "is much closer to modern man" than Neanderthal man, first discovered in 1856, near Dusseldorf, Germany.

In an interview with The Jerusalem Post, Rak said Neanderthal man had carved out his famous niche because so many more remains had been found in Europe. Moreover the 19th century savants were sold on Darwinism and happy to fit their finds into their theories.

He stopped short of claiming the ancestry of modern man for Mt. Carmel and Galilee. "Many finds in Africa have proven that man going up the scale from erectus to sapiens lived there too," he stressed. But although Carmel and Galileans were primitive, northern Israel produced men much nearer to modern man than Europe did in prehistoric times.

Kollek dedicates Yohanan Boehm Hall

At a memorial concert and ceremony last night, Mayor Teddy Kollek dedicated the Yohanan Boehm Hall at the Alpert Music Centre in the capital, in honour of The Jerusalem Post's late music critic.

The music centre houses the municipal youth orchestra which was founded by Boehm, and it was through his efforts that the centre was built with the help of famed trumpeter Herb Alpert and his family, Kollek noted.

At the ceremony, attended by family and friends, the orchestra performed, under the baton of Dr. Eitan Avitzur, and the New Jerusalem Quartet played the andante from Boehm's Quartet for Strings, Op. 6.

Speaking at last night's dedication ceremony, Kollek recalled Boehm's role as founder of Jerusalem's Youth Orchestra and contrasted the ensemble's early days of wandering from one temporary home to another, with the stability provided by the hall bearing his name.

The mayor's remarks were followed by the unveiling of a memorial plaque by members of the Boehm family. Yosef Tal, composer and professor of music at the Hebrew University, spoke of his long association with Boehm in the latter's role as music critic of The Post.

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I owe a lot to Mickey Marcus,' Rabin says at graveside ceremony

By WOLF BLITZER
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WEST POINT, New York — Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Wednesday came to the U.S. Military Academy here on the bank of the Hudson River to pay his respects to Colonel David "Mickey" Marcus, an American Jewish friend who died fighting for Israel's independence in 1948.

The U.S. government provided Rabin with an Air Force plane for the one-hour flight from Andrews Air Force Base, just outside Washington, to Stewart Army Air Field, which is about 50 miles north of New York City. Two U.S. Army UH-1 Huey helicopters flew the defence minister's party the rest of the way to West Point.

Marcus, a West Point graduate, was buried here shortly after being shot and killed on June 10, 1948, during the battle for Jerusalem. He was 47 years old. Only a few days earlier, Rabin commanded the brigade in which Marcus — a heavily decorated World War II veteran — was a volunteer. The unit was then based near Harel in the Jerusalem corridor, trying to keep open the main highway to Jerusalem. Rabin, then only 26, was transferred to another assignment just a few days before.

Meeting at West Point with the senior officers and faculty, Rabin said that the spirit of the U.S. Military Academy had always been symbolized in his mind by Marcus. The heavily-outnumbered Israeli army, he recalled, had been struggling to survive in the face of an invasion by neighbouring Arab states. Israel was desperate for experienced military help and appealed for volunteers from abroad. "This was the worst of Israel's wars, the most difficult and painful," he said.

Marcus, who years later would be portrayed by Kirk Douglas in the movie *Cast a Giant Shadow*, bearded Israel's call. "I owe a lot to him," Rabin said. "I feel a certain moral responsibility to him. He was unique. I felt he had come here personally because of what we owe Colonel Marcus."

Later in the day, Rabin and his aides, joined by Lieutenant-General Dave R. Palmer, the superintendent of West Point, and other American officers, drove

to the cemetery where Marcus is buried.

A four-man U.S. military honour guard was stationed next to the grave as Rabin, wearing a black skull cap, stood silently in solemn attention. A lone bugler played taps. It was very windy and cold. U.S. Army Major Kenneth Leinwand, a Reform rabbi who serves as the Jewish Chaplain at West Point, read Psalms in Hebrew and English before reciting *kaddish*.

Rabin then laid a large wreath at the grave. It was a brief but moving ceremony for a genuine hero who had managed to serve both the United States and the fledgling State of Israel. Marcus, no doubt, would have been most proud to see the incredible development of American-Israeli military relations over these past 40 years.

The closeness of that relationship was very much in evidence during Rabin's stay at West Point. The American army's high regard for Israel's military capability was especially clear during Rabin's dialogue with top West Point officers.

The defence minister was clearly in his milieu. He did not duck tough questions, including one on Israel's attack against the USS Liberty during the Six Day War in which 34 American seamen were killed. Rabin explained in detail the series of U.S. and Israeli errors which resulted in that tragedy. It was, he assured the Americans, an accident of war.

On other subjects, he recalled that Israel has never asked the U.S. to provide American troops to help in its defence. He said Israel had also not asked the U.S. to enter into a formal alliance or defence pact which could drag the U.S. into a regional war. But Israel was still "more than ready to offer our facilities" to the United States "for U.S. purposes."

He reviewed the conventional military threat facing Israel. Syria, he noted, now has over 4,000 tanks, including 1,000 top-of-the-line, Soviet-made T-72s. "not the export model but the type used by the Russians." This is three times the number of tanks in the French army; twice the number in the British army; and only a little less than those in the West German army, Rabin said.

Soldiers given soft-sell tours to discover their Jewish roots

By HAIM SHAPIRO
Jerusalem Post Reporter

"Driver, turn up the music." That was the way at least some Israel Defence Forces personnel reacted this week to a tour organized by the IDF chaplaincy corps, part of a soft-sell campaign by the army rabbinate to introduce Jewish values to soldiers who seem to range from indifferent to hostile in their attitude towards religious Judaism. The seasonable subject of the tour was: "In the footsteps of the Maccabees."

"They used to have rabbis leading these tours, but they were given such a hard time that now there are hardly any rabbis involved," one of the leaders, himself a teacher of Talmud to the non-religious, said. Most of the other leaders are also teachers, youth leaders and persons involved in public work.

Aharon, whose regular work involves guiding groups, took on a busload of good-natured, if not particularly enthusiastic, *jobnikim* (non-combat soldiers).

"Some of the girls here don't feel so well," a young man told him, leaning over confidentially. "Please see to it that we don't have to walk too much." It was of course the young man himself who stayed behind when the group had to walk a few hundred metres to reach the site of Susia, a Jewish city near Hebron during the Second Temple period.

"We take groups here because this is the perfect example of what Jewish life ought to be," Aharon told the group, explaining that the residents had been observant Jews who worked in agriculture. It was the closest he came to "preaching." Indeed, whether because of continuing criticism of attempts to convince soldiers to become religious,

or because he himself was not happy about such an approach, there was little to distinguish his commentary from one by a guide not provided by the chaplaincy.

"These people don't owe me anything. They don't have to listen to me if they don't want to," he said, when asked about his approach. "For me it is enough to try to show them that their roots are in this land. For me, Zionism and Judaism are one and the same thing."

Meanwhile, the group seemed interested enough as he took them into a cave-dwelling in Susia and then brought them to the city's monumental synagogue, where he may have surprised some of them by remarking that in the Talmudic period, "before the age of licentiousness," there were apparently no separate sections for women in the synagogues, with the sexes intermingling.

"They told me I couldn't stop on the way," he remarked as the bus went past the glass-blowing workshops outside of Hebron, adding that it was Jews who had introduced the industry there, before they were forced to leave in the 1930s.

But only a few hundred metres later he did ask the driver to stop outside an Arab pottery workshop, specializing in the large clay jugs sold in gardening shops throughout the country. As one of the workers demonstrated his skill on the potter's wheel, it seemed easy enough, but when he offered to let the soldiers take over, first one and then another found that try as they might, all they could produce was a lopsided lump of clay.

"That's always a bit on these tours," he remarked, adding that in fact the tour had little enough to do with the Maccabees. In addition to Susia and the outskirts of Hebron, the group visited Herodion, a site connected with the Jewish War of 66-73 CE, and Mevo Betar, near ancient Betar, site of the last stand in the Bar-Kochba rebellion of 132-135 CE.

This, of course, was only one of a number of tours being offered to soldiers in various parts of the country, with all the tours ending simultaneously with a candle-lighting ceremony at Mitzpe Modi'in, near the home of the Maccabees.

אור ודור LIGHT AND FREEDOM

The Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism Extends a Cordial Welcome to New Immigrants On the Festival of Lights

Fourth Hanukkah Candle — Erev Shabbat, Dec. 18th 1987

Tel Aviv — Kedem Congregation, 20 Caribach St. at 5:30 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat and lighting of Hanukkah candles together with new immigrants from USSR and South America.

Rishon LeZion — Achziv Yisrael Congregation, 22 Ofei Hagardom St. at 4:45 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat and lighting of Hanukkah candles with new immigrants from South America.

Nazareth — Herzl Congregation, 308/4 Hagiva St. Upper Nazareth at 5:30 p.m. Prayers and Hanukkah candle lighting with new immigrants from the USA, Ethiopia and South America.

Fifth Hanukkah Candle — Saturday Evening, Dec. 19th 1987

Ramat Hasharon — Darchei Noam Congregation, at the Nave Magen Comprehensive School, Hama'le St. at 5:00 p.m. Lighting of Hanukkah candles with participation of new immigrants.

Ra'anana — Ra'anana Congregation, in the Na'amot Hall, 18 Kuzan St. at 6 p.m. a Hanukkah party and candle lighting with new immigrants.

Sixth Hanukkah Candle — Sunday, Dec. 20th 1987

Ramat Gan — Emet Va'anava Congregation, 57 Jabotinsky St. at 7:00 p.m. Hosting new immigrants from the USSR and Rumania.

Jerusalem — Beit Shalom, 6 Shama St. at 5:00 p.m. Hanukkah party for recent and former immigrants, together with the Har El and Kol Haneshama Congregations.

Jerusalem — Telam Scouts, hosting new immigrant children in the framework of the Telam Scouts social activities camp on the theme of social and communal responsibility.

Haifa — Leo Baeck School, 6 Edmond Fleg St. at 6:00 p.m. An evening of Ethiopian Jewish culture on the theme of family unification.

Haifa — Or Hadash Congregation Lighting of Hanukkah candles together with recent immigrants at their absorption center.

Mitzpe Har Halutz in the Galilee Hosting Ethiopian children from Carmiel for Hanukkah party and candle lighting.

Seventh Hanukkah Candle — Monday, Dec. 21st 1987

Ramat Aviv — Ramat Aviv Congregation, 5 Levitan St. at 8:00 p.m. Hosting new immigrants from near by absorption centers and lighting of Hanukkah candles.

Eighth Hanukkah Candle — Tuesday, Dec. 22nd 1987

Nahariya — Emet Veshalom Congregation, Lighting of Hanukkah candles with new immigrant pensioners at their absorption center.

The Public is invited

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The Institute of Education for Judaism, Democracy and Zionism

How rumour fanned the Gaza flames

IT IS four o'clock in the morning, the sky over the refugee camp here still as black as the burned tyres strewn every few metres along the roads, and already everyone, it seems, has an idea that something is about to explode.

To the outsider, news, bad news in particular, travels with astonishing speed along these roads. The rumour of a boy whose spine was severed by an Israeli bullet can traverse 45 kilometres of petrol bombs, bedframe barricades and cinder-block artillery in a matter of an hour or two.

Even senior Israeli authorities here admit to wonder over the lightning efficiency – if not the accuracy – of the rumour apparatus that has fuelled the current wave of bloody confrontations throughout the strip.

In a not-for-attribution briefing earlier this week, a high-ranking IDF officer likened the speed at which stories spread here to a brush-fire – an expression also, perhaps, of the war-zone atmosphere prevailing in urban areas the length of the strip.

But the power of the rumour apparatus to almost instantaneously destabilize large areas of Gaza had been amply demonstrated in the past, most recently in the wake of the November killing of a Deir el-Balah schoolgirl, apparently at the hands of a Jewish settler riding in a car that had been stoned by high school girls.

Almost immediately after the shooting, stories spread among student demonstrators in other areas that as many as 10 girls had been shot in the back by settlers and that at least three were dead.

By the next morning, youths in a number of areas hurled barrages of stones at cars belonging to Israeli civilians, and in two instances, the Israelis drew guns and fired into the crowd, wounding several more girls.

The latter case, in which the reaction to a rumour lends credibility to what was, at first, inaccurate information, is something of a recurrent

theme here. After the schoolgirl's death, for example, stories spread in northern Gaza that the four settlers suspected of the killing had not been arrested but were being held in protective custody in Ashkelon, lest Gazans attempt to exact revenge. The next week, after two of the suspects moved into an Ashkelon hotel following a court ruling confining them to the city, the rumours appeared to have been borne out. Widespread Gaza Strip rioting ensued, intensifying when the court

Bradley Burston

dismissed charges against the settlers shortly thereafter.

The factors enabling stories to spread so quickly here and with such devastating effects are often reflected in the substance of the stories themselves. Strictly speaking, it is not bad news per se that travels fast, but stories about honour and dishonour, humiliation, defamation and death.

Thus, just prior to the current explosion of wrath that ruled the streets for over a week, stories circulated that a "pogrom" in Ashkelon had taken place, in which a mob of Israelis, anxious to avenge the fatal stabbing of an Israeli salesman in Gaza's Palestine Square, kidnapped an Arab worker on his way home to Gaza, killed him, and covered up the incident by telling the staff at Ashkelon's Barzilai Hospital that the man had died in an accident at work.

Though the pogrom story was fictitious (the lack of news coverage was seen by some as proof of a cover-up), the next afternoon an Israeli semi-trailer driver leaving Gaza lost control of the truck and slammed into two vans loaded with returning workers. Four of the workers were killed, eight injured.

The bodies were buried that night, and already during the funeral, youths circulated throughout northern Gaza with news that an

Israeli had intentionally run down returning workers. With the pogrom story in the back of their minds, youths interpreted later Army Radio dispatches calling the deaths accidental as evidence of an additional cover-up, and the riots that took over a week to quell had begun.

AS THE unrest progressed, it became clear to many observers that, more than any leader or underground organization, it has become the "ghetto teiegraph" – the strip's elaborate, finely tuned word-of-mouth news agency – that can mobilize its 650,000 lifetime clients to do something that provokes ministerial debate over the word insurrection.

"We are tired, these people, my friends," a prominent physician said here this week. "We are tired of being 'administered,' tired of the price of our victories, tired of our 'notables,' suspicious of their rivals."

"We are tired of the world's sudden interest in us, which is much more voyeurism than sympathy. We are tired of the distortions, tired of our own explanations and, most of all, I think, tired of the truth."

To be sure, the essential elements of the rumour apparatus here were well established long before initials like PLO and Shin Bet bore any meaning for residents. The apparatus has its origin in the extraordinary human geography of Gaza itself, where statistics on population density, average family size, birth rate, and related factors have created a daily reality here that, no less than the rumours, defies belief.

Soon, a million Palestinians will be crammed into this tiny area. A phenomenal percentage are young people – the mean age is 14. The population is also mobile in the extreme – more Gazans now work inside Israel than within the strip – and the constant flow of residents, coupled with the intricate, intimate interconnections of family relations throughout the strip, makes infor-

(Continued on Page Seven)

The absent defence minister's dilemma

Yitzhak Rabin this week had to face the question of whether to return to Israel or remain in Washington. He was in the U.S. on crucial business, but against this was the turmoil in the territories. Defence Correspondent HIRSH GOODMAN, just back from Washington, reports

LATE ON MONDAY afternoon, in a room on the seventh floor of Washington's Grand Hotel, Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin's aides were expressing their satisfaction – indeed surprise – that the issue of Gaza and the West Bank had not come up in the minister's talks that day. Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci had hardly mentioned the situation once, and the new national security adviser, General Colin Powell, referred to it only in passing, saying that he had "seen something" on the news. But that was the extent of American official comments on the riots that had swept through the territories since early the previous week.

And then came the evening news. Mesmerized and horrified, Rabin's entourage watched with the rest of America as what seemed to be out-and-out civil war in Gaza and the West Bank flashed across the screens. Next morning, the newspapers carried dramatic pictures of soldiers kicking Palestinians on the grounds of a hospital, or Israeli troops shooting around the corners of West Bank bazzars.

From then on, the issue was discussed at almost every meeting Rabin was to have, be it with the press, his advisers or American officials, both in Congress and the administration.

ACCORDING TO one American, at a high-level meeting the defence

minister had with a senior State Department official late on Monday, he was not his customary self-confident self.

"He did not come up with the usual formula that all was transitory and would soon be controlled," the American said. Instead, Rabin was pensive, expressing real concern about the situation, and agreeing that what was being witnessed looked more like civil rebellion than the sporadic waves of unrest that characterize life in the territories.

Rabin was also having some serious doubts as to whether he should remain in the U.S. or return to Israel to take charge of the situation. He was caught on the horns of dilemma. There was no question in his mind that in Israel he would be severely criticized for remaining in the U.S. On the other hand, if he were to rush back and leave talks that both he and the Americans considered crucial up in the air, he knew he would draw administration and media attention to the urgency of the situation – something that Israel was officially trying to deny.

AS WE KNOW, he decided to stay. He had the electronic means and professional staff on hand to keep him abreast of the latest developments, and he was in constant touch with those elements of the defence establishment in Israel charged with dealing with the problem.

He had come to the U.S. for 11

days for specific purposes. First, he was to negotiate the price of the 75 new F-16s Israel wanted, with two classes under consideration – a reduction in administration charges and the waiving of research and development costs – together worth hundreds of millions of dollars to Israel.

Then he had to convince Congress to go ahead with an administration proposal to grant 80 per cent participation in the research of an Israeli anti-tactical ballistic-missile system, and the American Air Force to go ahead with the Popeye stand-off air-launched missile programme, worth a potential \$1 billion to Israel.

Six other Israeli systems, including the Harvi kamikaze drone, were generating a great deal of co-production interest in the U.S. – all of them not only worth many millions to Israel, but key elements of the defence structure's ability to pick up the pieces of the Levi, remain intact, and continue to be at the leading edge of high technology.

The American administration had gone out of its way to roll out a red carpet for Rabin. Both Carlucci and Powell were new in their jobs, and had set aside time to get to know Rabin and familiarize themselves with the extent of Israel-American strategic cooperation reached under their predecessors. There were also new ideas and proposals to be discussed, of tremendous potential importance to the Israeli Air Force.

BUT MORE IMPORTANT, perhaps, was the defence minister's feeling that his presence in Israel would do very little to change things. The chief of general staff and the area commanders on the West Bank and the South were responding competently to the situation, it seemed, and the intelligence estimate was that the riots would die down within a day or two.

Moreover, he appeared to have no new ideas as to how to deal with the situation. He recognized that the problem was not one being faced just this week or next, but a long-term one, with everything pointing to the conclusion that things can only get a lot worse before they improve.

Just a few weeks ago, at a private dinner, Rabin had given a bleak prognosis. He had recently read a Defence Ministry study on Gaza toward the year 2000 (details of which

were published in *The Jerusalem Post* in November) and called the situation "hopeless."

He, like others familiar with the study, had been struck by the composite picture of doom that the statistics predicted. The year 2000 was just 12 years away. By then, every problem faced now would have doubled: the population would be 1.1 million, with double the number of refugees living in the camps that were the flashpoints of today's unrest. The number of workers that would have to be employed in Israel would rise to almost 100,000 if unemployment were to be kept at only twice the current figures.

There would be an annual shortage over 1 million cubes of water, and the amount of land available for agriculture would be drastically reduced on a per capita basis. Islamic fundamentalism was taking hold among the youth, and national-

ism, in all its forms, was endemic. A similar prognosis could be made for the West Bank, and in speaking at that night's dinner the defence minister – ultimately responsible for maintaining law and order until there is a political solution – left no doubt that he considered he was fighting a losing battle.

SO RABIN DECIDED to remain in Washington. Next week he will visit military bases where units using, or considering using, Israeli-developed equipment are based. Apparently he will also visit units that have been involved in tactical exercises with units of the IDF.

How important these visits are to Israel's security is an open question. Among some of the minister's aides, as well as some Embassy officials, there was a distinct feeling that the minister should have returned home

when his major meetings in Washington were concluded on Thursday. He had covered many of the important items on his agenda, and the Americans would have understood that Rabin's sense of responsibility left him no option but to go back to Israel and stand at the head of his troops.

But Rabin chose to stay in Washington, and for doing so he will, undoubtedly, be faced with major criticism when he does come home.

Perhaps he should have returned. But, one wonders, would it have made any difference? How Israel deals with the current waves of unrest is a strategic problem, not a tactical one. The solution is to be found in diplomatic actions, not military ones. Water cannon, had they been employed instead of troops, might have reduced casualties. They would not, however, have extinguished the flames.

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The other world of Balata

Joel Greenberg

THE TWO teenage girls with keffiyehs around their necks insisted that we follow them down the alleys of the Balata refugee camp despite the curfew. We moved along hesitantly behind them, feeling the fear that gripped the camp in the wake of a violent clash Friday in which Border Police shot and killed three local residents.

We were afraid of being spotted by nervous troops who, we thought, might open fire or, at best, order us out. We were concerned that the girls would get caught, and told them they should go home. But they had decided to take us to a bereaved family's house and the danger seemed to only increase their determination to get us there.

"We'll say we're going to the doctor," they said with a laugh.

A half-hour earlier, we had ventured into the camp through a side alley and cautiously made our way through the deserted streets as suspicious eyes followed us from behind walls and windows. Umm Mahmud Sabah, hanging laundry on a rooftop, invited us in after we told her we were interested in hearing about the recent events.

She showed us broken windows and a bucket containing two tear gas grenades. She told us Border Police had smashed the glass, lobbed the grenades inside, and bloodied her mouth as they pushed their way in to search for suspects. The Druse policemen regularly beat people, banged heads against walls, and cursed "in the foulest language," she said.

As we stood near a window, a patrol passed outside. Now we, too, were seized with fear of the troops who, it seemed, could burst into the house at any moment, wreaking havoc. It was strange. The soldiers out there were supposed to be "our boys" — but now we were afraid of them.

There was a wild shout outside, and we felt a momentary panic. Someone quickly shut the window, and we stayed put. All was quiet. Later, before we left, a girl went up to the roof to look out over the camp and report on the patrol's location.

When the coast was clear we ducked out and into a neighbouring home where we were shown signs of vandalism: smashed

windows and furniture, shattered glass utensils. Stories of beatings, curses and humiliation by Border Police. People were anxious to talk about their experiences and exhibit bruises on their bodies.

From there we set out to see the beleaguered family, led by the two girls. Peering around corners, they slipped quickly from one alley to the next, accompanied by the sound of whistles we could hear passing from house to house. There was a conspiratorial atmosphere of an underground at work.

We moved by pockmarked walls — "bullet holes," the girls said — and graffiti written by the bands of youths behind the recent protests, who security sources say have terrorized camp residents into cooperating with them. "Death to the Traitors," said one slogan, painted in large red letters. Another wall bore the name of one of the gangs: "The Explosive Belt congratulates our people for their steadfastness."

THE DEFIANT violation of the curfew, the slogans, the tense and determined expressions on the girls' faces — all communicated what Balata has become in recent weeks: a stronghold of anti-Israeli resistance. The camp is perhaps the one place where there may well have been a civil revolt in the West Bank.

Under tight discipline imposed by the Fatah's Shabiba youth movement, large parts of the camp's population had become mobilized. Women and children responded to leaflets calling on them to take to the streets, stone troops and physically block any entry of soldiers, Civil Administration officers, even Nablus municipality workers who arrived to carry out projects coordinated with the Israeli authorities.

The defiance was total and Balata threatened to become off-limits to Israeli security forces. The poverty-stricken camp appeared to be an example of what could happen in the future in other parts of the territories, and of what Israeli officers are worried about: a population in despair, with nothing to lose, taking to the streets en masse, refusing to cooperate with the occupier. The army was, in fact, in danger of losing control over Balata. The situation

resulted in a security crackdown led by Border Police who were sent in last week with a mandate to enforce a new tough line against rioters. But a week ago, the police also lost control. Confronted by a stone-throwing mob, they opened fire, killing three persons and wounding nine. They then went after suspects in neighbouring houses where, according to residents, they vandalized property and beat women and children.

Violence and fear seem to have polarized Balata. One side are the "nationalists," by choice or intimidation. On the other, the non-committed.

The bereaved family were clearly in the "nationalist" camp. The Jirmis, originally from Sheikh Munis (now Ramat Aviv), were proud of their record of run-ins with the security forces. The 12-year-old son recently appeared in a Ramallah press conference where he told journalists he had been severely beaten after he was arrested by troops. The mother had been arrested and jailed briefly in the past.

Sahar, 19, the eldest daughter, who was killed in the clash with the Border Police, regularly left the house to join demonstrations, and worked only a little, sewing clothes at home, according to an acquaintance.

At the entrance to the Jirmi home, the weeping mother was hugged by the girls who brought us. Their keffiyehs identified them as "nationalists," too. Inside, we could hear the tape-recorded wail of a Koran reader reciting verses in memory of the dead. Women sat in the living room and wept. Sahar's father, Ahmad Muhammad Jirmi, 47, his face grizzled and his eyes sunken, recounted how he saw his daughter shot.

"We had gone to the mosque. After the prayers, the soldiers came. Druse, with green berets. We went outside, and they began separating the youngsters and beating them. People began screaming 'Allahu Akbar,' including the women. People began throwing stones, and they began to shoot, at our legs, single and rapid-fire

shots. The shooting was from every direction. There were some 40 to 50 soldiers, who surrounded us. Some stood on the main road above the mosque.

"Sahar went to get her brother when the trouble started. A soldier came, and she told him she was going to pick up her brother. He hit her, and she threw a stone at him. Everyone came and began throwing stones. One soldier, standing near the school, about 40 metres away, aimed at her and fired."

Her mother said: "She was hit in the middle of her chest. I saw that when I washed her body."

"The body was kidnapped from the hospital and brought here," she continued. "After a while officers came to the house to get it. I asked them to please leave the body at home, but they refused. They said: 'We'll take her from you, even from the grave.'" After the autopsy, the body was returned.

"We buried her at 1:30 in the morning," said the father. "Only the mosque sheikh

and another 15 men were allowed to attend. There were troops and army jeeps all around the cemetery."

"Later they summoned me to the military government. They told me they're sorry about the incident, and hope that with God's help they'll calm things down. They kill our children and say they're sorry."

KIFAYA SAADI, 24, Sahar's neighbour and childhood friend, sat in the living room weeping with the others, but her clothing showed she was different. Instead of a keffiyeh and the traditional Palestinian dresses of other women, she wore a fashionable denim outfit, black tights, makeup and earrings.

In her house, she switched over to Hebrew, complete with slang, for the convenience of her Israeli listeners. Kifaya is a haircutter and has a salon in Balata. She was born in Kalkiya to a family which had moved there from the camp. The family later moved back to Balata because it owned a home there, but her father and brother still run a garage in Kalkiya.

She had harsh words for the Border Police, but also made unkind comments about the Shabiba youth who dominate the camp. She said her family is leaving Balata next week because life at the camp has become unbearable. Her father, she said, tells the children to stay home and keep out of trouble. The Saadi's, apparently, don't fit in.

Like many residents of Balata, Kifaya seemed most hurt by what she said is the obscene and insulting language used by the Druse Border Policemen.

"There's no one dirtier than the Druse," asserted Kifaya. "They use filthy language, shout 'Palestine is gone.' They know how to provoke us. In the past, there was respect for women and children, now they are beaten. The Druse are up to no good."

"When they stop me for a check at the entrance to the camp, I lower my eyes and say hardly a word to them. (She passes a hand across her closed mouth.) Otherwise I'll be considered a collaborator. I'll get a letter warning me: 'Don't laugh, don't show him a pleasant face.' What do they think, that I want to marry him?"

"They're groups of youths here who say: 'If you see a Jew's car, throw stones. If you see a Jew, don't let him enter.' They write people's names on walls, and everyone's afraid of them."

"Once we had normal demonstrations. Now, the women encourage the children, and a half hour protest lasts three hours. They're sick in the head. Instead of having peace and quiet, they go and throw stones. Will stones bring back Palestine?"

"We're leaving next week. A person has to rest. Whoever cares about us says: 'Get out now from Balata.'"

In Tel Aviv they're sleeping soundly

Robert Rosenberg

GO MAKE MEANING, they say in Hebrew, out of the sights and sounds of Israel this week. Tell me what you saw and I'll tell you who you are.

In a crowded night-time saloon in the centre of Tel Aviv, two men are talking about the women in the pub, about the cars parked outside, about a TV show that's been taken off the air. A third man comes in and says that another three people were killed in Balata. The two men look at their friend for a moment and then ask what he's planning to drink.

There's no further reference to the events on the other side of the country. Almost 17 years ago, the two men were soldiers together in Gaza. Their commander was Arik Sharon, and a lot more than 15 people were killed and 200 wounded. In less than 10 years, it will be their sons in the alleyways.

It will be their sons who will try to wash off the stink of tear gas and the thick black smoke of burning tyres. It will be their sons who will watch an old lady picking her way through stones scattered across the street, or make someone they can't know is

innocent stand outside in the pouring rain.

Their sons, young men, but boys really, still in their teens, will play the games boys play everywhere — throwing stones and chasing each other through alleys and fields. But of course it's no game. If it were a game, it probably would have been over after the first boy was seriously hurt, and definitely would have been over after the first one was killed.

This week, 15 have died. As many as 200 have been wounded. Almost all the casualties are on one side of the street, but they insist on continuing the game. And the two men, educated professionals who read the papers daily, at night in a Tel Aviv saloon, have given up talking about it, choose to avoid it, repress it out of the way. Maybe it's because it seems so far away from a Tel Aviv saloon. Maybe because it's so close.

A TEL AVIV clinical psychologist with a thousand-patient career, is unable to remember a single case in which a Jewish patient reported psychological anxieties concerning Arabs.

He is surprised by the question. In 35 years of practice in Israel, no body has ever even asked him if

patients have reported such anxieties.

He has hysterics worried about Aids and traffic, but not one worried about terror.

No Jewish Nazis march through his patients' sleep.

Keffiyehs have not replaced the Big Bad Wolf in nightmares that repeat with the regularity of West Bank rioting. The children of Kiryat Shmuna have such problems, not adults in Tel Aviv.

He cannot explain it. "In the omission," he says, sounding like he is quoting Freud, "there is more significance than in the commission." There certainly is enough Israeli art and literature depicting such dreams of tragic self-knowledge.

David Rudi is a controversial psychologist, so one turns to a non-controversial psychologist, just to make sure.

But she, too, has never encountered an adult patient from the mainstream or even the slipstream of Dan Region life who has reported neurotic anxieties about Arabs or terrorism. No displaced feelings of guilt, no patients transferring their guilt about their children or parents into guilt about what's happening out there, across the country. She, 17 years a practising clinical psychol-

ogist, is also struck by the omission.

One psychologist, a former Conservative rabbi, does say that people do not turn public issues into private demons.

It's the psychologists who suggest finding meaning by listening to what is obscured, in the euphemisms that cover up the words that induce pain.

THE POETS of Israel hear their language twist and turn on euphemism.

Tell me how you describe the territories beyond the Green Line and I'll tell you who you are. Occupied? Liberated? Conquered? Administered? Judea, Samaria and Gaza? Or JS&G, w.l.a.h in Hebrew, a language conceived in the combination of ideogram and phonetics, has the ring of salvation to it. Jews are murdered, Arabs die, unless they are moderates, in which case they are notables. The names of the victims can become the titles of ideological poems from both sides of the stone-strewn street.

The first Arab victim was named in the news reports. She was a 17-year-old girl, and 17-year-old girls are the embodiment of innocence in every culture, even if for the settler who has been charged with running

100 metres from his car to the courtyard where she was standing, she was the embodiment of all the danger that any settler living in Gaza must feel.

TWENTY YEARS AGO, who would have believed that a Hebrew song would one day rock and weep that "the Messiah doesn't come, doesn't even pick up the phone."

Shalom Hanoch sang that two years ago. A Jewish army was still in Lebanon. The song wasn't about longing for the messiah. Like any good pop song, it was about longing for love.

Nowadays, we're told, there are only a handful of troops in south Lebanon, and nowadays, another song is popular.

"Everyone's going somewhere, seeing a sweet future," sings Meir Banai of Machina. "But me? I wake up in the morning and take the Number Five to the beach. The bus is full of smoke, two old ladies and a ticket collector."

"There's graffiti on a cement wall: 'What happened to the state? What happened to the vision? Look at the state and look at the cement.'"

"The birds sing good morning. Maybe I can fly away with them, far far away, and never fall."

In the Land of Israel, 22-year-olds longing for a future, long for the past and dream of getting away. The Arabs at the other end of the street, the Jews on the Number Five, at 22, they look around and see the graffiti.

What 19-year-old stone-thrower or tear gas thrower can admit to seeing his own fear on the face of the other? Meanwhile, says the sailor who shot at a boat that tried to attack his boat, he saw "the flash, the blast, a shadow on the bridge."

And what do the stone-throwers see?

THE PREDICTABILITY of it all is the absurdity of it all.

Tell me what you call the events of the last week and I'll tell you who you are. Civil unrest? Routine rioting? Turnout? Repression? A temporary Media exaggeration? War?

Last week's TV news and tonight's weekend magazine are all about why some people were so happy with the TV strike. If there had been a strike this week, you might not have known that black smoke towered over Gaza like a tanker on fire in the Gulf.

You might not have seen the old ladies picking their way through the stones scattered across the curfewed streets of Balata. You might not have seen this young soldier's eyes darting back and forth, that soldier firing round after round of tear gas at a crowd lazily visible at the other end of a street.

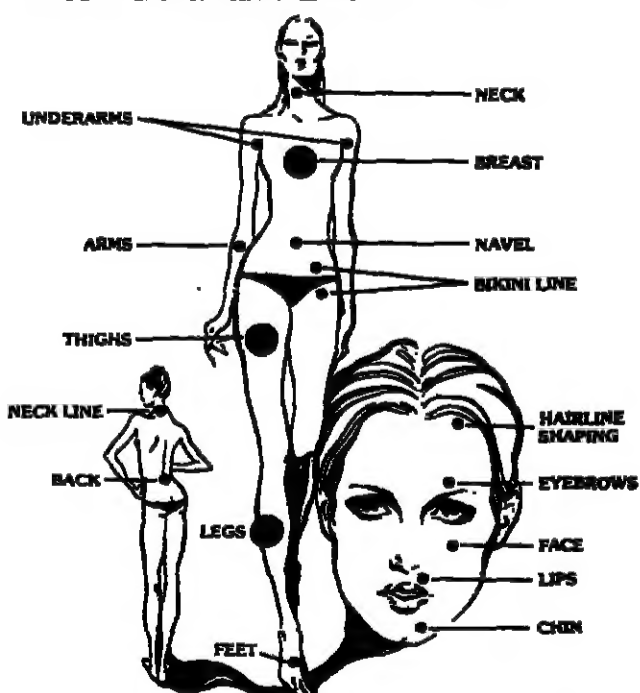
And what started it all? The humiliation of the PLO at the Amman summit? The heroism of the glider attack? The killing of Intisar el-Atar? The hit-and-run killing of four Gazans by a runaway semi-trailer? Tell me what started it all and I'll tell you who you are.

Rumours are the fuel of riots. But the match that starts the flame is inevitably an accident, a misunderstanding, the sound of a broken bottle smashing any hopes that a tense moment of confrontation might end peacefully instead of turn into the routine of rioting.

But the tinder, oh, the tinder, is here all the time. Here, not there. Twenty years say some, 100 years say others. Tell me how many years the tinder has been here and I'll tell you who you are.

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BECAUSE BECAUSE

the government of "national paralysis" gives no hope for an honorable settlement to the Arab population under its rule. The Prime Minister intentionally blocks all chances for progress towards a comprehensive political agreement.

The Likud and its partners are the true defeatists — gripped by fear of any compromise.

They have created a political deep-freeze, and are responsible for the heavy price that we pay as well as the heavier price which our children and grandchildren will pay.

THE SECURITY FORCES CAN CONTAIN THE FIRE IN THE TERRITORIES PARTIALLY — BUT THE ONLY POSSIBILITY FOR A REAL RESOLUTION IS NEGOTIATION AND COMPROMISE.

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Bendin Miller, Boro Park, New York
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for their outstanding performance of Jewish Cantorial Art "Hassamut" in Hechal Hatarbut, November 10, 1987, on the occasion of its 30th Anniversary and the announcement of the establishment of the Israeli Institute for Cantorial Art in Tel Aviv.

G-d Bless You!

Gila and Haim Wiener



Shabia al-Akik, second from right, with her family in Nablus this week.

'Ibrihim joins the martyrs'

Reporter DAVID RUDGE talks to the family of Ibrihim al-Akik shot dead in Nablus last week.

"MANY PEOPLE have died and many will die in the future until we get all of Palestine back," declared Shabia al-Akik, whose teenage son Ibrihim was shot to death by an IDF sniper during rioting on the streets of Nablus last week.

"I am proud of my son, even though my heart is heavy with grief. He died a martyr at the hands of the Israelis. They turned him into a national figure," she said.

The grim-faced mother, her head wrapped in a white scarf, sat on the edge of a bed in the family's cramped and squalid two-room flat in the centre of Nablus.

"Israel took our country, our land and now it has taken the life of my eldest son," she said. "Israel is our enemy. We hate Israelis and we are not afraid of them. We are struggling for freedom and we won't stop until the Israelis leave our land."

But hadn't enough blood been spilled, Arab and Jewish? Wasn't it time to forsake the path of violence and seek a more peaceful solution?

Al-Akik, her hands clasped together on her lap, shook her head emphatically after the question was translated from English by a Nablus resident who had guided us through back streets, along an alleyway and up a flight of worn stone stairs to the family's home.

"There will be no compromise. Even if we lose all our sons, the struggle (for liberty) will continue," she replied, with no other outward sign of emotion.

The quiet resolve in her voice and her cool demeanor in the wake of the tragedy that had befallen the family gave her apocalyptic comments added weight. The words, the sombre expressions on the faces of al-Akik and the others present, including her mother and daughter and a neighbour, lent an eerie atmosphere to the cool, damp room with its high-domed ceiling and peeling plaster.

Wasn't there another way to achieve peace, we asked.

"There will be no peace until the Israelis leave our land," she asserted with finality.

AL-AKIK'S 16-year-old son, Ibrihim, was killed on Dec. 10 when IDF troops clashed with stone-throwing youths. "He left home at 8.30 in the morning to buy food from the market. Friends brought him back dead three hours later," the mother said in a flat voice. "We don't know exactly what happened during the time he was away. But

I'm sure he did not throw stones." Al-Akik, who has five other children, a 16-year-old daughter named Mai and four boys, explained that Ibrihim had died from a single shot which hit him in the chest.

"We started to make arrangements for the funeral, but a short time afterwards, soldiers came and took away his body to Abu Kabir (the forensic science institute). We resisted, but they hit me with their guns. They brought Ibrihim back after midnight." Al-Akik added that the military authorities had allowed only five people to attend the funeral service at the Moslem cemetery in Nablus.

Had Ibrihim been involved in the recent wave of unrest?

"He was upset and angry about what has been happening, the same as everybody else, but I don't think he had taken part in any demonstrations," she replied.

"He left school recently and two months ago started work to help his father support us. Nobody asked him to do that. It was his own decision. He said he wanted to earn money so that we could save to buy a bigger and better home."

"That's the sort of person he was. A good, quiet boy who loved his family. All the people of Nablus were angry about the way he was killed. I feel like any mother who has lost her eldest son. I am heartbroken, angry and bitter. But I am also proud of him because he was killed by the Israeli soldiers. He has joined the ranks of the martyrs."

Al-Akik said the pride she felt had helped ease the pain of grief and suffering. "I still feel his presence in the house. That is something that will never disappear. We will never forget him."

How had Ibrihim's brothers and sisters reacted to his death?

"He was more than just a brother to me, we were friends," said his sister Mai.

"I'm very upset and very angry, but I'm also proud of the way he died. He has become a hero," she replied, echoing the words of her mother.

Mai said she hated Israel for the occupation, not only the death of her brother.

"You see the soldiers in the



Ibrihim al-Akik

streets of our town. Sometimes, when there is a disturbance, they just hit out at everybody, girls and children. The young children are afraid of the soldiers."

Had she had any contacts with Israelis other than soldiers?

"No, and I don't want any contacts with them. Israel is not on the side of justice," she declared. "We want peace, but we also want our land and our country and we are not prepared to share it. This is our country and we don't want anybody else occupying it."

But how did the family feel when a Jewish civilian was killed, as had happened recently and not for the first time in Nablus other parts of the territories?

"We would be sad for him because he was a civilian. Our struggle is against the soldiers and the state — those that took our land. We don't really want to hurt those who don't harm us," replied Mai's mother.

Her four other sons returned to the flat after visiting their brother's grave. They looked equally sombre, but agreed to pose for pictures in the street alongside a battered van, its doors and windows smashed by rioting.

The area had been quiet when we arrived at the family's home, but soldiers were patrolling nearby when we re-emerged onto the street.

Our guide appeared anxious to get away. "I think there will be a battle here later," he commented as

we turned the corner heading back to the main street. A minute later, a single shot rang out.

"Probably more stone-throwing, but nothing serious," he said.

EARLIER IN the morning, groups of youths had burst out of the downtown market quarter and hurled stones towards troops on duty in the main Hussein Square before turning and fleeing back inside, chased by some of the soldiers. The same scene was repeated several times that morning. The stones were swept up, growing into a pile by the railings surrounding part of the square.

Apart from those incidents and a demonstration by students at the Rawda College near the military governor's headquarters, during which troops reportedly fired rubber bullets at the protesters, the situation in Nablus on Wednesday was relatively quiet.

The majority of the shops, however, were closed. Troops urged stallholders and shopkeepers to open their doors for business in an effort to restore a semblance of normality to the town. The shutters of those who refused to open were welded shut.

Our car, with its yellow Israeli licence plates and "Press" signs plastered in English and Arabic on the front and rear windows, stood out like a sore thumb in the square.

"There haven't been any Israeli civilians here since the troubles started, only a few journalists and, of course, the police and army," said the guide.

It was a strange, uncomfortable feeling to walk through the streets, one's adrenalin pumping and every sense on the alert, under the stares of people lining the pavements.

According to one resident, the city's inhabitants are increasingly afraid of what he described as the indiscriminate shooting of the soldiers. "We feel that the Israeli authorities have adopted a new policy of shooting people, women and children — even those who don't take part in the demonstrations," said the man, who asked not to be named. "Everybody feels insecure. We don't feel safe even on the streets of our own town."

What about Jews who had their throats cut while visiting Nablus?

"These sort of incidents are very rare. Normally hundreds of Israelis come to the city, for business or tourism, and no harm is done to them," he said.

'PLO behind the unrest'

David Landau



Yossi Beilin

(Zoom 77)

YOSSI BEILIN says he has "no problem" explaining Israel's case during these days of violence in the administered areas.

That is fortunate because, as political director-general of the foreign ministry, Beilin has had to spend much of this past week with stern diplomats of irate governments doing just that.

It is also fortunate, because at the weekend, Dr. Beilin will have to go back to his particular constituency in the Labour Party and explain his explaining. His followers and comrades in Hug Mashov, the party's most dovish ginger group, are likely to be stern and irate too.

Beilin is their champion. The soft-spoken, 40-year-old former journalist and academic hopes to represent them in the next Knesset. And they hope he will become a latter-day Yossi Sarid (though that name itself is invariably uttered with a scowl and sigh in Labour circles these days), the conscience of the party.

For this present Knesset term, they have loyally supported him as he, the closest of Shimon Peres's confidants, has wrestled with his conscience to serve his mentor in the national unity administration, first as cabinet secretary and now in the Foreign Ministry.

His conscience, Beilin insists, is no more battered as a result of the latest bloody turbulence in Gaza and West Bank. "There was no particular repression that triggered this," he declares. "Nor is this a spontaneous uprising of repressed people against their occupiers."

"Rather, it is a calculated, cold-hearted attempt by the PLO to recapture its lost primacy in the wake of the Amman summit."

"And so far, it is succeeding. The price is Palestinian blood, and that's a cheap price for the PLO to pay."

"For me, as someone who incessantly seeks any opportunity to move to negotiations, the PLO's actions are the most counter-productive possible. They inevitably divert efforts from the route of the peace process, which is still open."

"But that's what the PLO plainly

wants. This is the obvious conclusion to draw. The PLO wants to crush any hope of a negotiated peace. That's why they oppose the procedural compromise on the international conference, because they do not want any conference."

BEILIN COMPARES the present situation to the funeral of Zafer al-Masri, the assassinated mayor of Nablus, in January 1986. The PLO deliberately turned the cortege into a violent demonstration, thereby posthumously and spuriously turning this hopeful man of peace, who was felled by extremists, into a martyr for its cause.

"That led to February 1986 (the rupture between King Hussein and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat)," Beilin continues. "Now again, they're out to deal a blow to Jordan."

"The Amman summit may turn out to have been a real milestone on the road to eventual peace — or else, if the PLO succeeds — a turning-point towards deterioration..."

From this Beilin slips smoothly into the theme which, he readily admits, he has made his personal signature tune for this election year. "I say, and I'll keep saying, no matter how monotonous: let's not repeat 1973. Then, both Labour and the Likud convinced themselves that there was no war in the offing. Now, too, we are all saying that Egypt is okay — we have peace with her; Jordan is okay — we have de facto peace; Lebanon doesn't exist — so that's okay; and Syria won't go it alone."

"We go on to say that since 1988 is an election year here and in America, nothing's going to happen. So why bother to try?"

"But that presupposes a foolhardy and unrealistic assumption — that things stay static. They don't."

"Even during this last year of ostensible stasis we have seen a steady, and ominous, Syria-Jordan rapprochement. Recently Syria has started talking about strategic parity again. And General Tlas's comments on the hang-glider attack were hardly words of peace."

HOW RUMOUR FANNED THE GAZA FLAMES

(Continued from Page Five)

mation-flow both swift and far-reaching.

Another element in the network is the Gaza school system, in many cases under the aegis of an Unwra apparatus not conspicuously in harmony with Israeli authorities. The schools also have telephones, which the vast majority of homes do not, so insinuations of learning have become communications as well as ideological foci for unrest.

BUT PERHAPS the most significant demographic factor is the religious heterogeneity of the population. Sunni Moslems make up no less than 99 per cent of the population, with Christian Arabs accounting for the bulk of the remainder, and 800 Jewish settler families a distant third.

In recent years, a revival of Islamic fundamentalism was seen by some Israeli officials as an effective counterweight to the popularity of the large numbers of Gaza-born PLO chieftains, seen here as "local boys who have made good."

But the fundamentalist movement has boomeranged on the authorities with devastating effect, and the sight of Palestinian flags flying

from mosques here this week suggested to some anxious Civil Administration officials the wave of a distinctly unpleasant future.

Nearly a dozen fundamentalist organizations are now operating along the strip, from the extreme Islamic Jihad cadres to Iranian-influenced groups that run retreats to proselytize Israeli Arabs and West Bank residents.

In the end, it was the mosques which played a central role in the dissemination of rumours this week, broadcasting from minaret loudspeakers until IDF troops cut off their electricity.

Even without amplification, though, messages about wells poisoned by soldiers, schoolgirls shot and taken off to Israel, and related themes got through to the crowds that gathered inside.

In the end, however, amplification of the rumours was unnecessary, because Israeli and foreign radio stations relayed the stories quickly and clearly throughout the strip.

"The people who demonstrate used to listen to the PLO radio to find out what was going on," said an Islamic University student this week. "Not any more. Now Israeli

radio is enough."

In a few minutes, thousands of workers here will decide whether or not to leave the camp and go to work. But one look at the road will tell them.

On the highway that leads to Israel, nine year olds are rolling tyres, dousing them with gasoline, setting them alight. The road is impassable for as far as anyone can see.

One of the boys sets a picture of Yasser Arafat on top of a bedframe roadblock and shows off the Palestinian flag he has drawn with coloured markers on butcher paper.

Another carries a perfectly scaled-down copy of a Kalashnikov rifle over his shoulder. Approaching the boy, the others see how he made the gun out of wire and PVC irrigation pipes his father brought home from his work on a moshav.

The boy smiles at the picture of Arafat and says, "I heard everything about him last night. He's in Gaza, in disguise, and he might come by here later on."

The story, it turns out, is no more real than the tiny Kalatchnikov. But in the context of Khan Yunis, the gun, no less than a rumour, may be ultimately far more dangerous than it appears in the bad light here.

Stephen Solomons/Ehud Shamir present (in Hebrew):

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We hope that your prayers and outstanding artistic performances will have a lasting impact on the Romanian and Hungarian Jewry.

Gila and Haim Wiener

SANTA CLAUS GETS "WITH IT" PLANS TO USE "EGGED" BUSES THIS CHRISTMAS

"Bringing my sleigh and reindeer all the way from Lapland has become rather too expensive for me nowadays", confided jolly fat Santa Claus in an exclusive interview to the Jerusalem Post this week. "But I've discovered a marvellous alternative", he added, a broad smile beaming from behind his bushy white beard. "This year, when I distribute my Christmas toys to all the children, I'll be arriving by 'Egged' bus instead. And, ho ho ho, it's a wonderfully convenient way to get to Bethlehem, too. Why don't you try it?"

"EGGED" Bus Services on Christmas Eve

Take advantage of Egged's special bus services, to and from the Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, on Thursday, December 24.

Jerusalem - Bethlehem - Jerusalem
Egged buses will ply to and fro between the Talpiot Bus Depot, Jerusalem and Manger Square, Bethlehem, from 8am until after the end of the Mass (about 3am).

To reach the Talpiot Bus Depot, use bus routes 5, 6, 14, 21 & 21a, which will run until midnight from Jerusalem City Centre and the Central Bus Station. Between midnight and 3am, route 6 will be the only bus service connecting the Talpiot Bus Depot with Jerusalem City Centre and the Central Bus Station.

"Egged Tours" Services

Jerusalem Hotels - Bethlehem - Jerusalem Hotels
Special bus services, from Jerusalem's hotels to Bethlehem, are additionally being arranged by Egged Tours. Buses will leave the hotels, bound for Bethlehem, between 7.30pm and 8.00pm. At the end of the ceremonies in Bethlehem, they will then transport passengers back to their hotels in Jerusalem. For details, ring 02-304422.

Tel Aviv - Bethlehem - Tel Aviv
Egged Tours bus services from Tel Aviv to Bethlehem will depart from Kikar Atarim (Tel Aviv) between 7.00pm and 7.30pm. Buses returning to Tel Aviv will leave Bethlehem at about 1am. For details, ring 03-242271.

Netanya - Bethlehem - Netanya
Egged Tours bus services from Netanya to Bethlehem will depart from Kikar Ha'ma'ut (Netanya) between 6.30pm and 6.45pm. Buses returning to Netanya will leave Bethlehem at about 1am. For details, ring 053-28333 or 053-337296.

Further details may be obtained from information desks at all Egged bus stations throughout the country, and from the following data centres:

Tel Aviv: 03-432777 Jerusalem: 02-304304
Haifa: 04-549121



EGGED KEEPS THE COUNTRY MOVING

EDUCATION MINISTER Yitzhak Navon had a pained expression on his face as he considered the latest swing of the Treasury axe. "This," he said, "is too much. If it goes ahead then I'm out. I won't be responsible for sending thousands of teenagers out of the schools and into the streets."

He was talking about a Finance Ministry proposal that has been condemned as a social time bomb and which, despite being defused annually, refuses to disappear — the re-introduction of high school fees.

Navon and most other people involved in education see the plan as a potentially devastating blow to a schools system that is already bruised and battered by repeated assaults on its budget.

Classroom hours have been cut so that hordes of children are out on the streets by midday. Thousands of teachers have been fired. Schools are bursting at the seams, some with more than 40 pupils in a class. "Non-essential" lessons such as music, art and even general history have disappeared in many places. And social integration — a central plank of education policy in the past two decades — has become a sick joke.

All this the minister has swallowed over the past four, belt-tightening years. But now, he says, he has reached the point of no return. If high school education is to be paid for out of the parents' pockets then he will have no alternative but to quit.

Of course politicians have an unwelcome talent for making such resounding declarations and then — having reached the end of their tether — unexpectedly finding that the tether has been miraculously extended.

But Navon, puffing angrily on a cigarette, certainly appeared to be in earnest and he has much to be earned about. The high school plan is only part of a proposal by Finance Minister Moshe Nissim to reduce education spending by what education officials estimate, will be NIS 140 million.

He also intends to cut by 1,000 the number of trainee teachers studying



MINISTER NAVON: "We are raising a generation of mediocrities and even illiterates." (Roni Ne'eman)

The point of no return for the schools system

Bernard Josephs

at seminars; sharply reduce the number of places in boarding schools, including those that serve children of elementary school age from problem homes; cut the jobs of 100 school inspectors; reduce the number of psychologists by 25 per cent; fire dozens of educational consultants and, finally, cancel plans to introduce free kindergartens for three and four-year-olds.

In addition, Education Ministry officials have pointed out, the Treasury's draft budget for education has somehow "forgotten" to include money for a number of vital projects including NIS 19.1 million to provide for an expected increase in the school population and funds to build over a thousand desperately needed classrooms.

Navon reacted sharply to suggestions by Finance Ministry officials, including Nissim, that in fact the education budget — which at around NIS 1.8 billion is the biggest after

generation of mediocrities and even illiterates." A report issued by Tel Aviv University's Dayan Centre for Middle East Studies shows that the Arab countries are outstripping Israel in the race for educational superiority. For instance while 14 out of every 1,000 Israelis currently attend university the figure for Palestinians is 18.8 per cent. And complaints have been voiced by the heads of Israel's institutions of higher education about the low level of students.

"In the past eight years hours in elementary schools have been cut by over nine per cent and in junior high by over 20 per cent," said Navon. And behind the dry statistics lies a real danger.

"We cannot afford the luxury of being behind in technology and in science. We have to compete commercially, and of course militarily, in order to survive. Our destiny is in our brain power. It is our edge and if

we lose it we have no other resources."

Socially too, the minister, saw a grave threat emerging from the constant downgrading of education. Nearly 20 years ago it had been considered vital to reform the schools system in order to integrate children from different economic and cultural backgrounds. "We had to give help to those who were weaker, give them more opportunity, more hours. But now the opposite is happening. When you cut the budget you cut those who need help most and in a few years we will feel the effect."

The growing shadow of so called grey education hovering over the nation's classrooms underlines the increasing social gap. To some degree — though attempts by the Treasury to impose high school fees have been beaten off in recent years — the battle for free education is already lost.

Parents who can afford it "buy" hours through donations to school funds. It is legal but it is divisive. "You get a situation where in an area you have two schools and in one of them the parents have the money to pay. In the other, however, the majority can't afford it. So you get two distinct levels of education — for the haves and for the have-nots," said Navon. This, he warned, bore the seeds of social divisions that might never be healed. But he added: "What can we do. Stop parents trying to improve on the education we give their children?"

Despite the bleak prospects facing the schools, insisted the minister, there was no denying the tremendous strides made since the founding of the state. The problem was not in the past or even the present, but in the future. He hoped that world Jewry could be mobilized to help raise funds needed to boost science and technology. This would be a tremendous boost. But in the end the only way to maintain standards was to spend more.

"My fear is that if we don't push ahead we will retreat. In education there is no such thing as standing still," he said.

'We can't afford free education'

Bernard Josephs and Lea Levavi

cases parents whose children go to a wealthy school but who genuinely can't afford the extras are not pressed to pay up. But they pay a different price — in resentment and injured feelings.

And then there are those who attend schools where the majority can't afford the extras. They are left with the bare basics and, as Education Minister Yitzhak Navon readily admits, these are simply not sufficient to produce educated, well-rounded citizens.

Reuven Gai, general secretary of the National Parents Committee described the case of a well-paid engineer who, because he has eight children, spends half his NIS 3,000 a month salary on school "fees."

"Everyone knows there is no such thing as free education," said Gai. "But we have reached the point where parents can't be expected to pay out more. The burden is over the top. Only this week I got a pile of bills for my own two children. I regularly pay NIS 200 a month for extra hours and now I've got to find another NIS120 for special events connected to the 40th anniversary of the state."

"We are not a militant organization but if the education budget is cut further we are going to demonstrate rather than find the money to make up the difference."

Gila Ram, deputy general secretary of the Histadrut Teachers Union said she had heard from principals that they rely on parental help to provide items like duplicating materials and even fuel for heating.

"There is complete anarchy in the area of parents' payments and there is room for abuse. I recently heard of a school where a father suggested that parents pay for sailing lessons. Later it emerged that he was renting out the boats."

Another problem, said Ram, is that where relations between parents are poor there is sometimes

friction over how to use their money. "It isn't enough to say that those children whose parents can't cope will be guaranteed full participation. Who decides who can and can't pay and what social pressure or stigma surrounds these issues? Should parents have to submit to a means test?"

Hannah Maron, of the Secondary School Teachers Association pointed out that — whether parents pay extra or not — the system is running short of some specialized teachers because they are leaving the schools in droves as a result of poor pay.

"For instance, the figures say we need 200 more English teachers and they simply don't exist. We are short of maths teachers, physics teachers, chemistry teachers and computer teachers. Once we had more Hebrew grammar teachers than we needed but they can no longer be found."

"How can you expect the best people to join the profession when starting teachers with bachelor's degrees are paid such miserable salaries? In addition, we lack even the most basic equipment, like decent blackboards. There is no doubt that we have reached the red line."

Nehman Raz, chairman of the Knesset Education Committee, said his members were fully against further cuts in the budget. "It is wall-to-wall opposition irrespective of political alignment," he pointed out.

"We are not at all satisfied with grey education and nor are we prepared to support the law that will be necessary if fees are to be charged for secondary schooling. We have blocked it before and we will block it again."

"What we see is children in the streets at midday and the rich getting the best education. The level of schooling has gone down and there are many achievements that are endangered. The battle over the budget is going to be a long one but we intend to win."



Barbados stamp issued to commemorate synagogue restoration.

A special Hanukka for the Jews of Barbados

Michele Chabin

FOR THE TINY Jewish community on the West Indian island of Barbados, Hanukka this year has special significance.

Tonight its members will gather — along with some 100 Jewish leaders attending this week's international Commonwealth Jewish Council Conference — for a Shabbat/Hanukka service in their Old Synagogue. This will mark the first time the building is being used as a synagogue in almost 60 years.

The service is the culmination of the efforts of Barbados's 60 or so Jewish residents to reclaim and restore their synagogue. For although the Old Synagogue is one of the two oldest places of Jewish worship in the Western Hemisphere (the oldest is located on Curaçao), Jews have been unable to pray there since 1929, when the building was sold and converted to offices. It was not until 1983 that the dream of reacquiring the synagogue could be realized.

The synagogue's history — and that of its congregation — are closely intertwined. Located in the heart of the Bridgetown shopping district, the Old Synagogue dates back to the time of the exodus of Jews from Recife, Brazil, in 1654. A group of those who fled Recife for Amsterdam, upon hearing that Oliver Cromwell had opened British domains to Jews, applied for and secured permission to settle in Barbados.

A HURRICANE in 1831 devastated most of Barbados and almost completely destroyed the original synagogue, but the 90-member Jewish community raised the necessary funds to rebuild it. The renovated synagogue was reconsecrated in 1833, but the hurricane had taken its toll financially. The result was that the majority of Barbadian Jews immigrated to the United States or the United Kingdom.

The exodus continued and by 1900, only 17 Jews remained. In 1929, with only one practising Jew from the original congregation remaining, the synagogue was sold by private treaty and became, in turn,

an office building, a racing club headquarters and a law library. The cemetery that surrounds the synagogue, however, was leased to the Jewish community for 100 years at a peppercorn rent.

Three years later, a group of Jews from Europe settled in Barbados but found themselves without a place to worship. By this time, the synagogue had been dismantled; its artifacts sold. At first, services were held at the residence of one member, but as the Jewish community swelled to 30 families, a new property was purchased and converted into a synagogue.

In 1983, the government of Barbados acquired the Old Synagogue property with the intention of demolishing the building and erecting a Supreme Court house on the site. The Jewish community leapt into action and petitioned the government to save the synagogue.

On January 12, 1984, the late prime minister of Barbados, Tom Adams, wrote, "I have already given instructions that the synagogue not be demolished, and I am even inclined to replace the old staircase... as long as we can be sure that there will be some body which could assist the government in maintaining a restored building as a tourist attraction."

In 1985, the cabinet announced the decision to vest the Old Synagogue in the Barbadian National Trust, the watchdog organization for the preservation of historic buildings.

In an ongoing restoration project, the Barbadian Jewish community has gone to great effort and expense to make the synagogue suitable for worship. In addition to massive structural restoration, interior furnishings have been replaced, along with some of the original artifacts.

This evening, the fourth night of Hanukka, the festival marking the rededication of the Holy Temple, the Jews of Barbados will rededicate their own synagogue.

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WINTER — 1987/88

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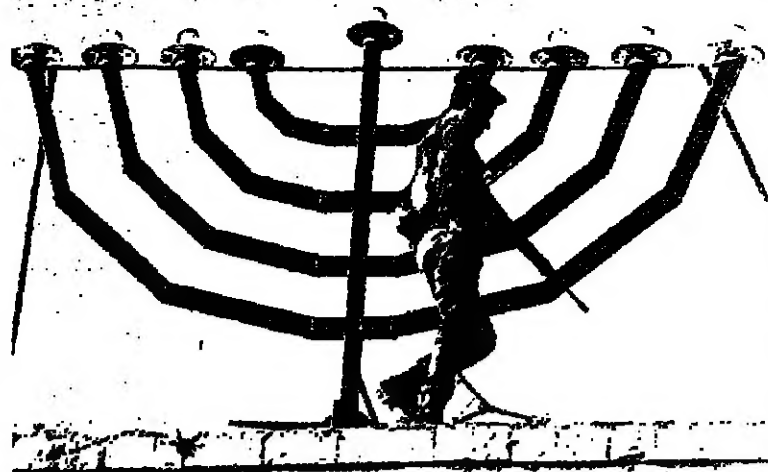
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Dr. DAVID WEISS
Shaare Zedek Medical Centre
speak on

Sharon and the Wittenberg legacy

Andy Court



On guard on the roof of Ariel Sharon's new home in the Old City of Jerusalem. The menorah was put up for the minister's house-warming Hannukkah party. (Reuter)

THE LARGE stone building at 35 Rehov Hagai in Jerusalem's Moslem Quarter has received almost as much attention these days as Trade and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon who recently decided to live there. But Sharon is essentially the houseguest of a Russian Jew who bought the building 103 years ago and set up the charitable trust that still controls the property today.

In 1882, Moses Wittenberg left his home in Vitebsk — halfway between Kiev and Leningrad — and came to live and study Tora in Jerusalem. He was so taken by the building on Hagai St. that he gave both a top clergyman and the Latin Monastery gifts of gold above and beyond the building's price in order to convince them to sell the property, according to the memoirs of his relative, Isaac Schirion.

The translator in the delicate negotiations over the building was Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, who rejected Wittenberg's entreaties to chat in Yiddish from time to time. Wittenberg reportedly bought Ben-Yehuda a donkey so that he could commute from his home outside the walls of the city to the Old City where negotiations were held.

According to one account, the religiously-observant Wittenberg subscribed to Ben-Yehuda's newspaper as a supportive gesture even though he did not agree with the paper's Enlightenment views.

When Wittenberg bought the house in the Old City in 1884, there were no clear divisions between Jewish and Moslem quarters: Jews lived in the Moslem Quarter and Moslems lived in the Jewish Quarter. No one would have considered moving there a "provocative" act.

As a leader of the Habad Hassidic community in Jerusalem, Wittenberg gave generously to the Bikur Holim hospital and built a small synagogue in his home on Rehov Hagai.

Wittenberg's wife, reportedly unable to adjust to the hardships of life in Palestine, returned to Vitebsk. He stayed on and studied Tora.

PERHAPS because Wittenberg had no children, he concentrated on leaving a legacy of public works. He built the Sha'arei Moshe neighbourhood. Towards the end of his life, he set up the Wittenberg Trust which uses the rent money from his buildings to support various charitable causes.

What the world knows about Wittenberg comes mainly from the memoirs of Schirion and a few other chroniclers of the time.

Hebrew University Prof. Yehoshua Ben-Arieh's recently translated two-volume collection *Jerusalem in the 19th Century* (St. Martin's Press, Yad Izhak Ben Zvi) mentions the man. Shabtai Zacharia, a lawyer

who has done research on him and is affiliated with the Ateret Leyoshna settlement organization, will soon release a Hebrew pamphlet on Wittenberg and his home.

On the basic details of Wittenberg's life, Ben-Arieh and Zacharia generally agree. But when they talk about the man and his historical context, politics starts mixing in.

Zacharia believes that Wittenberg had not only religious reasons for coming to Jerusalem, but nationalistic ones as well. He also believes that the dominant factor leading to the exodus of Jews from the Moslem Quarter in the early 20th century was the Arab riots of 1920, 1921, and particularly 1929.

"I'm convinced that had it not been for the pogrom (i.e., Arab riots) of 1929, Jews would have continued to live in this area until 1948. These buildings are close to the Temple Mount and that ties the people to the place."

When Ariel Sharon and Ateret Cohanim students come to live in the building, they are "correcting the damage" done by the riots, Zacharia says.

Ben-Arieh, however, sees the disappearance of Jews from the Moslem Quarter as part of a general demographic process in which they left the cramped Old City for new neighbourhoods that were developing outside the walls.

"If not for the riots, maybe Jews would have stayed in some of the buildings (in the Moslem Quarter), but the fact is that Jews also left the Jewish Quarter," notes Ben-Arieh.

The main reason that Jews moved into the Moslem Quarter in the late 19th century was that the Jewish Quarter was full and there was a natural need to expand, he observes.

"Strange as it may seem," Ben-Arieh writes in his book, "the veteran Jewish community of the Old City, in building New Jerusalem, brought about its own demise... It took the Jordanians to make the Old City 'Judenrein' in 1948, as they drove its last Jews into exile before razing the Jewish Quarter."

These events, of course, led to the Knesset's decision after the 1967 War defining the Jewish Quarter at twice its size on the eve of the Independence War, creating the space for a massive national project.

By the time Ariel Sharon entered the house where Moshe Wittenberg once lived, quite a bit had changed — even if the building had not.

commentators. Although aware that the literary development as well as the purpose of the story preclude an earlier recognition, they were still amazed that the 10 did not recognize, or at least suspect, the one.

A simple answer is that given by Rashi, who quotes the Talmud (TB, Baba Metzia 39b): Joseph recognized his brothers, since their appearance had not greatly changed. They did not recognize him because he had been a beardless young man when they last saw him and now he was fully bearded.

Rashi himself does not seem to like the idea that it's all in the beard, and proceeds to quote the Midrashic explanation that the statement refers to more than physical recognition. What was lacking between Joseph and his brothers was a recognition and acceptance of each other as brothers.

Joseph indeed "recognized his brothers" and the minute he saw them he resolved in his heart to treat them as brothers although, when he was in their hands, they refused to recognize him as their brother.

Stressing the difference between Joseph and his brothers is not only a descriptive part of the evolving story but also a statement as to the direction of the rest of the story, which is to follow. Although they did not "recognize" him in the past as a younger brother who yearned for their love and understanding, we are told now that he was not going to bear a grudge against them, but would "recognize" them and treat them as brothers.

Moreover, it is possible that they did not recognize him now because they had never taken the trouble when they still lived together in their father's home to get to know him well. How will they recognize him now, when they really never knew him before? Even now, when he is in a position of power and they have to deal with him in order to secure their own interests, they are not able to overcome the psychological barriers of dormant hatred and jealousy which prevented them from openly recognizing him.

IN ACTUALITY, we should not be surprised at the fact that Joseph was not recognized by his brothers, as he was truly not the Joseph they knew. Elie Wiesel in his masterful essay on Joseph (*Messengers of God*, Random House 1976, pp. 139-173) claims that what the story of Joseph is "man's capacity for transformation. The tale of Joseph," says Wiesel, "is the tale of a metamorphosis — no, a series of metamorphoses."

First, a family metamorphosis: a favorite child falls victim to his own prerogatives. A social one: a poor immigrant becomes a huge success in his adopted country. A political one: a servant turns activist and changes the socio-economic policy of the land. A philosophical

BUT SHARON, meanwhile, is playing different political cards. Mounting a diversion with his wily battlefield tactics, in the Old City's Moslem Quarter, he is crusading as keeper of the holy places. Sharon had no choice but to call on Sharon in Rehov Hagai and defer to him by congratulating him.

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Joseph's transformation

This week's Tora portion is Miketz (Genesis 41:1-44:17).

ONE OF the high points in the dramatic story of Joseph and his brothers occurs when the 10 men come to Egypt to buy grain for their starving families back in Canaan. They bow down to Joseph, who is now the governor of Egypt, "with their faces to the ground."

Joseph realized who they were but pretended not to know them and acted in a way that did not allow them to know who he was. Tora reassures us that indeed "Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him" (Genesis 42:6-8) even after they spoke about the country from which they had arrived.

It is true that the brothers did not expect to find Joseph where he was at that time, but on the other hand, they were well aware of the fact that he had been sold into slavery to a caravan heading for Egypt (ibid. 37:25). We are also told in the Midrash that procuring food for the family was not the sole purpose of their going down to Egypt.

They also had a "hidden agenda": to look for their long-lost brother. They entered via different approaches in order to cover all areas. They searched every market and alley but now, standing right in front of him, it did not occur ever to one of them that the man they were looking at and talking to might be the brother they were trying so hard to find.

"Why? And why does Tora repeat twice (verses 6 and 8) that he recognized them, but they did not recognize him?"

A number of answers were offered by various Bible

TORA TODAY/Pinchas H. Peli

commentators. Although aware that the literary development as well as the purpose of the story preclude an earlier recognition, they were still amazed that the 10 did not recognize, or at least suspect, the one.

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Moreover, it is possible that they did not recognize him now because they had never taken the trouble when they still lived together in their father's home to get to know him well. How will they recognize him now, when they really never knew him before? Even now, when he is in a position of power and they have to deal with him in order to secure their own interests, they are not able to overcome the psychological barriers of dormant hatred and jealousy which prevented them from openly recognizing him.

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First, a family metamorphosis: a favorite child falls victim to his own prerogatives. A social one: a poor immigrant becomes a huge success in his adopted country. A political one: a servant turns activist and changes the socio-economic policy of the land. A philosophical

or artistic one: the slave turns into a prince. And finally, a purely Jewish metamorphosis: a young refugee, without friends or connections, builds himself an astounding political career culminating with his accession to the post of chief royal adviser."

There were always Jews who held key positions in the political structure of different countries. In modern times there were Benjamin Disraeli in Britain, Walter Rathenau in Germany, Leon Trotsky in Russia, Leon Blum in France and many other such "Josephs." They usually tended to forget their loyalties to their own people. Not so Joseph, who "recognized" his brothers and who without diminishing the quality of the services which he rendered to his adopted country, never forgot or concealed his origins.

THE RABBIS in the Midrash explain why Joseph earned the privilege to be buried in the Holy Land, a privilege which was denied to Moses. This was because Joseph introduced himself to strangers as one who "was stolen from the land of the Hebrews" and was accordingly referred to as "the Hebrew" (Gen. 40:15; 39:14), while Moses kept quiet and did not protest when he was described by the daughters of Jethro as "an Egyptian man" (Exodus 2:19). Although a native of Egypt and formally an Egyptian citizen, Moses should have declared his Jewishness openly and not let the credit for the good deed he performed go to "an Egyptian man."

Rav Huna stated in the name of Bar Kappara: The Israelites were redeemed from Egypt on account of four things: a) because they did not change their names; b) they did not change their language; c) they did not go to tale-bearing; and d) they kept away from [sexual] immorality (Midrash Leviticus Rabbah 32.5).

Joseph seems to represent all four qualities. About the last two we know from his episode with the wife of Potiphar and from the way he treated his brothers. He also excelled in the first two qualities, which brought about the redemption from Egypt: a) bondage.

At the beginning of his career he received, from Pharaoh a new Egyptian name, Zaphenath Panach. (Gen. 41:45). Whatever was the meaning of the name (and there are indeed various interpretations) it was no doubt a high-class name or title, and was granted to him by the king himself. Yet, we never hear this name mentioned again in the life of Joseph. He preferred to be called simply Yosef rather than "Mr. Panach" or "Lord Zaphenath."

Joseph, unlike many Jews who mix in non-Jewish society did not turn his back on his Hebrew name nor on the Hebrew language. When naming his children who were born in the land of Egypt, he did not look for good Egyptian names but gave them only Hebrew names — Ephraim and Menashe — to be used every day and not only in Hebrew school or when being called up to the Tora.

Later on when he reveals himself to his brothers, he says (45:12): "Your eyes can see... that it is I who is speaking to you!" How could they see it? Says Rashi: by the fact that he spoke to them in Hebrew!

Asks Rabbi Mordechai Hacohen in his *Al Ha-tora*: "If his speaking Hebrew was to be the proof of his being the real Joseph, why did he say 'your eyes can see,' he should have said 'your ears can hear that I am speaking to you [in Hebrew]?' The answer: Joseph took them over to look at his private library and said: 'Look at my books and your eyes will see who I really am. Is not a person also identifiable by the books he reads?'"

Even prior to his revealing himself to his brothers, when they returned the second time to see him, Joseph orders his steward (43:16) to "take these men to my house, slaughter an animal and prepare dinner; they are to eat with me at noon." All these details are given to tell us that Joseph invited his brothers to eat in his house because he knew that they had to have kosher food.

Joseph became part of Egyptian high society, but was not embarrassed by his own life-style or family. When his father and brothers came over from Canaan, he introduced them proudly to Pharaoh. Joseph was the first to face the dilemma confronting the modern Jew many centuries later after leaving the confines of the ghetto: how to become an integral part of the world around him and at the same time preserve his ancestral heritage.

Rabbi Peli is the Blechner Professor of Jewish Thought and Literature, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

Premier Shamir's new tough image

Asher Wallfish



"He has chosen attack as the best strategy." (Hernik)

PRIME MINISTER Yitzhak Shamir sounds like a changed man. Gone is the image of the taciturn Mossad executive, who voices his views with a dash of understatement, even indifference. The Prime Minister has begun to talk aggressively, emotionally, and histrionically.

In the last few weeks, Shamir must have been getting tips on improving his delivery. He has clearly got a new script.

Launching the election campaign months ahead of time, Shamir has jumped the gun on the Alignment. He has stopped talking off the cuff. Every word is carefully written down. The purpose is political escalation.

But Shamir is not raising his voice, in order to put U.S. administration officials in their place. He is not sabre-rattling against Syrian President Hafez Assad. What he is rattling is the ballot box.

The text which he takes along to his public appearances is not type-written, to be mechanically intoned. Those who get close enough to him to take a peek, can see that his stentorian declarations are written in his own hand, on lined folio sheets.

Not only decibels and delivery differ, but above all content. In this respect, his top aides have left their traces. The style is smoother and cleverer. The detail is more sophisticated.

Shamir has measured the continuing gap between the Likud and the Alignment as reflected in the opinion polls and concluded that the Likud can no longer afford to lag so far behind. He has chosen attack as the best strategy.

Having stumped Alignment leader Shimon Peres over the international conference proposal, Shamir has picked a timely new theme for his offensive. As Alignment figures are reminding all who will listen that frustration and anger breed on the absence of a political solution, Shamir now accuses the Alignment of encouraging the Arabs in the areas to step up violent agitation.

For the time being, this is the closest that Shamir has got to branding the Alignment as traitors. He has till November 2 next year to get even closer.

Likud politicians who study Shamir at first hand suggest that Shamir may yet try to precipitate early elections, in spring 1988. If he gets the Orthodox factions on his side, he may just succeed. As a second option, he would like to harass Peres so stridently as to shove the Align-

ment out of the coalition. But Shamir knows it takes two for this sort of early election tango. Peres does not have to throw in the sponge just because of the noise.

Riot and bloodshed in the areas are a persuasive theme for the Likud to expound, if they seek to warn electors that life and limb are at risk, unless the Likud gets an iron fist mandate for the next government.

But behind all this, the internal unity of the Likud's Herut wing is Shamir's worst worry. The scenes at the Herut party convention are still in his mind and in the minds of the public.

By seizing a propaganda initiative and setting a forceful tone, Shamir has put pressure on Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon and Housing Minister David Levy, to postpone a leadership struggle within Herut indefinitely. Short on charisma like Sharon or Levy, Shamir is going along with a strong-man message.

BUT SHARON, meanwhile, is playing different political cards. Mounting a diversion with his wily battlefield tactics, in the Old City's Moslem Quarter, he is crusading as keeper of the holy places. Sharon had no choice but to call on Sharon in Rehov Hagai and defer to him by congratulating him.

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PROGRAM

9:30 Ruth Matar, Chairwoman, Introduction

9:45 Esther Kitov, "Heroines in Jewish History"

10:30 Genia Cohen, M.K., Reminiscences of an Underground Fighter, 1943-1948

11:15 Coffee Break

11:45 Yana Hmerinska, "A Woman Refusenik in the USSR"

12:30 Film, "Ateret Cohanim in the Old City"

12:45 Tami Guri, "Day to Day Living in the Reclaimed Part of Jerusalem"

1:00 Shula Cohen, "A Woman Spy in Arab Lands"

STOP

Pick up a soldier

Damage-control Zionism -- a new phase

Allan E. Shapiro

A REBELLION of sorts is under way in the Diaspora. It came into focus during the recent Zionist Congress, with its beefed-up representation of the non-Orthodox trends in American Judaism. The earlier statements of groups such as the American Jewish Congress endorsing the idea of a peace conference showed that the World Zionist Organization was only one front in a much broader campaign.

Basically, the Diaspora unrest signifies no change in the commitments or the priorities of American Jewish leadership. It does, however, constitute recognition of the fact that actions of Israel's political establishment can threaten Diaspora interests. It also demonstrates a lack of confidence in the way Israel's leadership deals with issues in which Diaspora Jewry has a stake.

The result is increased involvement, not as a manifestation of increased solidarity, certainly not because of a renewal of Zionist faith. It stems from apprehension. Decisions taken here can hurt there; therefore, it is good sense to get involved. If there is an ideology at work, it could be called damage-control Zionism.

IN THE PRE-state era, distinguished leaders of Reform Jewry in the U.S., such as Rabbis Abba Hillel Silver and Stephen S. Wise, were recognized leaders within the Zionist movement, both in America and worldwide. Their leadership was not due primarily to their standing within the Reform movement, but was a function of their Zionist commitment and their stature on the American scene. Today's Reform movement appears to work within the Zionist movement to advance essentially Reform objectives.

The WZO then becomes an avenue for influence on policy decisions. Litigation before Israel's High Court of Justice, as in the Shoshana Miller case, involving the registration of a Reform convert as a Jew, was a successful use of another way of achieving the same objective. These are methods of exerting influence, with a minimal commitment, as Ms. Miller's return to her Colorado exile illustrates.

Even this form of involvement has beneficial consequences, going beyond the narrow "Who's a Jew" issue that appears to have triggered the recent non-Orthodox effort. For one thing, it helps impress on Israeli consciousness a picture of the American Jewish community

closer to reality than that commonly held. One can still hear arguments from supposedly informed Israelis that concessions must be made to the Orthodox on issues such as Sabbath observance in order to satisfy Diaspora (!) expectations.

In reality, of course, the opposite is the case. The public manifestations of what is regarded here as "religiosity" deter more potential candidates for aliyah than they encourage.

If the appearance of Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Avraham Shapira at the Zionist Congress was "Jewish," it certainly was not of the sort with which most Jews from abroad could identify.

No wonder non-Orthodox immigrants from English-speaking countries become "secular" Jews — at the same time becoming "Anglo-Saxons" — immediately upon arrival in Israel. It is also no wonder that their numbers among the newcomers of recent years have dwindled.

IN THE SENSITIVE area of political support for Israel, the future is uncertain. When a clear issue of Jewish solidarity is involved, little seems to have changed, as the mammoth demonstration for Soviet Jewry on the eve of the Gorbachev visit shows.

However, Israel can no longer depend on automatic support from American Jews on a wide range of questions involved in the Arab-Israeli dispute. Moreover, important elements in the American Jewish community are prepared to take sides on internal Israeli disputes with external consequences, as the declarations with regard to the international peace conference initiative demonstrate.

In the new era of Israel-Diaspora relations, after Pollard and after Irangate, it is uncertain how the American Jewish leadership will react to an increase in repressive measures on the West Bank and in Gaza. Israeli actions that are likely to be unpopular with Americans generally will also be unpopular with American Jews.

In Israel, civil disturbances in the occupied areas only strengthen pre-existing convictions. In American Jewry, where opinions with regard to a future political settlement are less fixed, they are likely to produce a strong reaction.

Future American policy-making with regard to a final resolution of the conflict in the region may be free of the political pressures of American Jewish opinion to a degree unknown in the four decades of Israel's independence.

The writer is a political scientist.

'There is no provision protecting freedom of conscience'

A Bill of Rights that spells fewer rights

David Kretzmer

FOLLOWING THE campaign by leading academics from Tel Aviv's Faculty of Law some politicians, led by the minister of justice, have come out in favour of a formal constitution for Israel, the main chapter of which would be the bill of rights. Last week the Knesset Constitution and Law Committee held a marathon two-day session in an attempt to reach a final version of the basic law on human rights. Among the versions being considered by the committee is a version drawn up in the Ministry of Justice which was severely criticized by strong supporters of a bill of rights, such as MKs Amnon Rubinstein and Shulamit Aloni, and Judge Eli Nathan, chairman of the Association for Civil Rights in Israel. What are the real issues at stake?

THE DECLARATION of Independence of May 14, 1948, expressly stated that the State of Israel would have a constitution, to be drawn up by an elected constituent assembly. The constituent assembly was duly elected but even before its election a debate erupted about whether the time was ripe for drawing up a formal constitution.

Those in power at the time didn't see any special need for a constitution, the main object of which would be to place restraints on the power of the organs of government. They argued that as only a small portion of the Jewish people were living in Israel, drawing up a constitution which would bind the country for all time was premature. The religious parties, which at the time were part of the ruling coalition, also objected, both on ideological and pragmatic grounds. The ideological objection was based on the notion that the Jewish people have a constitution, the Torah, and it would therefore be presumptuous to call another document a constitution. The pragmatic objection lay in the fear that a constitution would be used by

the secular majority to undermine the status quo in religious matters (such as the sole jurisdiction of religious courts in matters of marriage and divorce) which already existed at the time. The opposition parties, on the other hand, unsure of their status in the fledgling state, strongly supported the immediate adoption of a constitution, which would, they hoped, serve as a buffer against attempts to tamper with the rights of the political minority.

The outcome of this debate was a compromise resolution passed by the Constituent Assembly, which by then had become the First Knesset. Known as the Harari Resolution, this stated that Israel's constitution would be drawn up piece by piece, in a series of basic laws which would be prepared in the Constitution and Law Committee and submitted to the Knesset for approval. When all the basic laws had been enacted they would be drawn together as the constitution.

On the strength of the Harari Resolution a series of basic laws have indeed been enacted. These include laws relating to the Knesset,

government, judiciary, army, economy, Israel lands and Jerusalem. They do not include, however, two major chapters, a law on basic civil rights and a law defining the relationship between the basic laws and ordinary legislation of the Knesset. A few of the provisions of the basic laws are entrenched, that is to say, may only be amended by a law passed with a special majority, and the Supreme Court has held that a statute of the Knesset which is inconsistent with one of the entrenched clauses, but was not passed with the required special majority, is invalid. However, this is the only respect in which the basic laws have any special standing. In all other respects, the Supreme Court has held, the basic laws have no special status. They may be abrogated or amended by ordinary laws of the Knesset.

THE ABSENCE of a basic law, or, in fact any other law on civil rights, does not mean that these rights have no standing in the Israeli legal system. In a series of decisions, beginning with the historic 1953 decision of Justice Agranat in the Kol Ha'am case, the Supreme Court has held that as Israel is a democratic state, basic rights such as freedom of speech and assembly, freedom of religion and the principle of equality are part and parcel of the legal system. This approach of the Supreme Court has been the major factor in the constitutional protection of basic rights in Israel and has to a large extent filled the gap left by the lack of a formal constitution. The implications of recognition of basic rights as principles of the legal system may be summarized as follows:

1. Where possible, statutory provisions must be interpreted in a manner which is consistent with basic rights. Thus, for example, in the Kol Ha'am case the court dealt with a provision in the British Mandatory Press Ordinance which authorized the minister of interior to order closure of a newspaper if a matter published therein is, in his opinion, "likely to endanger the public peace." The court held that this provision only applies when the danger to the public peace meets the test of "high probability." It therefore overruled the closure order of the minister which did not meet this test.

2. No administrative authority may curtail basic rights without express statutory power to do so. Thus, for example, a municipal council may not discriminate on grounds of religious persuasion in leasing municipal premises.

3. Even when empowered to limited basic rights, an administrative body must wield its power in a manner which gives due weight to these rights. Thus, for example, the police must exercise their discretion in licensing of processions so as to allow, rather than prevent, demonstrations. They may only refuse a licence if there is a high probability of a breach of public order. The Film and Play Censorship Board may only censor a film or play if there is a high probability that showing the play or film will endanger public order.

4. A body to which limited legislative powers have been granted by the Knesset may not use those powers so as to curtail basic rights unless expressly authorized to do so. This ruling was the basis for the recent decision of the municipal court in Jerusalem that the, by-law which prohibits opening of cinemas on Shabbat is invalid.

It should be clear from the above that, thanks to the Supreme Court,

The Knesset and the legislature

the status of basic rights in Israel's legal system is quite strong. The individual is afforded significant protection against infringements of his or her rights by the executive branch of government. If one thing is missing it is protection against infringement of rights by the legislature. For the one limitation of the recognition of basic rights as protected legal principles, is that these principles are not strong enough to overrule Knesset legislation, or even British Mandatory legislation which has the same status as Knesset legislation. Such legislation is not subject to judicial review and may not be declared invalid, even if it is inconsistent with basic rights. The Supreme Court has upheld the validity of a provision in Mandatory legislation which the court itself described as

"inimical to basic concepts in a democratic society." It has also held that the fact that a law of the Knesset offends freedom of conscience has no effect on the law's validity.

GIVEN THE protection afforded basic rights without a bill of rights it should be clear that support for such a bill should depend on whether it strengthens the rights protected under the present system. Unfortunately, it seems that some of the politicians who purport to support such a bill have no intention whatsoever of bolstering those rights.

The present discussions in the Constitution and Law Committee of the Knesset revolve around a bill submitted in the last Knesset by MK Amnon Rubinstein. This bill, which passed first reading, adopts a proposal prepared by Professor Hans Klinghoffer and first submitted to the Knesset in 1964. This proposal was carefully drafted to define basic rights and their limits, as accepted in modern democracies, and to bolster the constitutional standing of those rights in Israel. Thus, for example, the bill states that no law shall contradict its provisions, and that it may not be amended except by a majority of two thirds in the Knesset.

During the committee debates in the last Knesset it became clear that in order to gain enough political support for the passing of the bill serious inroads would have to be made on the original version. A special sub-committee headed by MK Aloni prepared a new draft of the bill which included compromises in various respects. Thus, existing legislation could not be attacked as inconsistent with the bill's provisions for the first few years after passage of the bill. The idea behind this provision was to allow the Knesset to prepare new legislation which would replace existing problematic laws, such as the British Defence Regulations.

WHEN THE Committee reconvened last week to continue its deliberations on the bill, a new factor entered the field. The minister of justice has committed himself to passage of the bill of rights in 1988 and his ministry dug up and submitted a proposal drawn up on November 1985, for consideration of the committee. Were this proposal to be adopted the minister of justice would achieve his ambition of having a law called a bill of rights passed, but the cause of civil rights would not be advanced. In most respects the bill is no improvement on the present situation and in some crucial respects it actually derogates from the present situation.

Qualification of equality principle

The Declaration of Independence does indeed state that Israel is a Jewish state, but it also declares that the state will guarantee absolute equality in political and social rights to all its citizens, regardless of race, religion or sex. It is clear then that the definition of the state as a Jewish state, was not meant to sanction discrimination between Jew and non-Jew. The ministry proposal states the principle of equality but qualifies it in the following manner: "A legal provision which derives from Israel being a Jewish state shall not be regarded as discriminatory." Could this not be taken to mean that any privileges granted to Jews would be regarded as valid? If there is one thing that a bill of rights should do it is to strengthen protection of the rights of the minority, especially given threats from some political quarters to undermine those rights. Far from doing so, the above provision would do just the opposite.

Laws of personal status unaffected

The ministry proposal also declares that it will not affect the validity of legislation passed before it came into effect. Thus all British Mandatory legislation, which is the most problematical legislation in Israel in the human rights field, would be left untouched, and only future Knesset legislation would be subject to review. As seen above, the main limitation of the present system is the non-reviewability of legislation. Why do we need the bill if this is hardly changed? Furthermore, the ministry proposal declares that the bill will not apply to laws of personal status. It includes no provisions protecting freedom of conscience nor outlawing torture or cruel punishments. Finally, many of the rights defined in the bill may not be abrogated "except as defined by law." Given the present legal standing of basic rights such provisions are meaningless.

THE CHANCES of the ministry proposal being passed by the Committee are, one would hope, not great. Nevertheless, the proposal should awaken us to the dangers of supporting a bill of rights without examining its provisions closely. A bill of rights will not necessarily improve the present situation. It should not be passed unless it is going to improve it significantly.

The writer teaches constitutional law at the Hebrew University.

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The gifts go out and the thanks come in

WE ARE HAPPY to report that all Toy Fund gifts have been purchased and delivered. Letters of thanks are arriving, and we would like to share excerpts from a couple of them with our readers.

Yehoshua Ayalon of the Youth Protection Authority writes: "Our youth who are under protection primarily as the result of juvenile court orders, live in homes, some of which are closed homes with a relatively high level of security. For them, these games and the activities surrounding them are that much more important. This is due to the public concern which they represent."

"As one who works the year long in guidance and distribution of games among the protectees of the homes, I want to let you know that at every meeting with the staff of each home, I do not forget to mention that the game room owes its existence mainly to the support of The Jerusalem Post Toy Fund. We would like to express to you personally, and through you to all the contributors who have helped this enterprise in any way, our thanks and appreciation."

A second letter, from Dvora Waysman, Shaare Zedek Medical Center's Press Officer, says: "We would like to express our gratitude for the wonderful and very generous cheque we received from your Hanukkah Toy Fund. Our Pediatric Department bought a wide variety of toys that are giving so much joy to our young patients. In keeping with the holiday season, your donation has brought much light into the lives of our young patients, and we thank you most warmly for this annual gesture of goodwill."

Gertrude Harvey Cohen is now working on her eighth mini-drive on behalf of the Toy Fund and Forsake Me Not Fund, to which she devotes a lot of time and effort. Who else would knock on doors and keep such accurate records? This year's totals were the best ever: NIS 3,402.

Alex Pincus, another devoted campaigner, sent in a nice batch of cheques for the Forsake Me Not Fund.

It is gratifying to know that there are people out there doing their best to raise funds for the needy elderly and children.

Please keep on giving and help us to do more than ever before. Send

Beverlee Black

your cheques today to: The Jerusalem Post Funds, P.O.B. 81, 91000 Jerusalem.



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Micha Breakstone, Tali Weiss, Sharon Kaufman and their teacher, Henia Bilbi, of the Frenkel Masorti School, French Hill, Jerusalem, at the Toy Fund office before presenting a cheque for NIS 300, which they raised at their school.

Donation, NC. In honour of my three granddaughters: Chagale, Lavi and Robin - Sylvia Leimberg, Chagale, Lavi and Robin - Sylvia Leimberg, Chagale, Lavi and Robin - Sylvia Leimberg.

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NIS 180 In memory of my mother, Sara Helen Kalbfleisch, on the 13th anniversary of her death - Esther Sufin, Tel Aviv.

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"FORSAKE ME NOT"

NIS 500 In honour of Guggi and Leo Grubman's Golden Wedding Anniversary - with love and affection from those who deeply appreciate and know all they have done.

NIS 100 Our love to all the children - Savva Gene and Saba Michael. Keren Rehavia, Jerusalem.

NIS 126 Hail, in the names of each of our grandchildren - Mr. and Mrs. Ephraim Kohn.

NIS 115 Elie and Queenie Goldblatt of Toronto, formerly of Netanya.

NIS 100 Mary Segal, Netanya. Corex Management and Investment Co. Ltd., Tel Aviv.

NIS 100 In memory of my little cousin, killed in the war - E.B., Beersheba. Mr. and Mrs. N. Klufer, Jerusalem.

NIS 80 Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Chestman, Jerusalem.

NIS 80 Meade Goldberg, Jerusalem. Mr. and Mrs. Alex Kana, Jerusalem.

NIS 72 Anonymous, Jerusalem.

NIS 52 In honour of my five grandchildren - Dr. I. Lewinsky, Kfar Shmaryahu, Kibbutz Beit Rimon.

NIS 40 In honour of the 40th anniversary of the State of Israel.

NIS 36 Riva Freedman, Jerusalem. Mr. and Mrs. M.J. Levy, Jerusalem.

NIS 35 Anonymous, Haifa. Shimon Mendel, Ramat Gan.

NIS 30 Mr. and Mrs. David Burgin, Jerusalem. Shoshana Netanyahu, Jerusalem.

NIS 25 Fink's Bar Restaurant "Six O'clock Club," Jerusalem. Eli Golan, Herzliya Pituah.

NIS 20 Mr. and Mrs. David Burgin, Jerusalem. Shoshana Netanyahu, Jerusalem.

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NIS 15 Bertha Goldman, Jerusalem. Rose Gordon, Jerusalem.

NIS 13 In memory of my mother, Sara Helen Kalbfleisch, on the 13th anniversary of her death - Esther Sufin, Tel Aviv.

NIS 10 In loving memory of my parents - Tada and Wally Blechman, Tel Aviv. Mr. and Mrs. M. Davidowitz, Jerusalem. Mr. and Mrs. P. Bauman, Jerusalem.

NIS 5 Mr. and Mrs. S. Rosenstein, Netanya. Loni and Aaron Levin, Netanya. Mr. and Mrs. Louis Simonson, Jerusalem.

\$2,000 The Gump Family Foundation, Inc., New York, NY.

\$100 In memory of our parents: Samuel and Bessie Starr, and Simon and Sarah Gross - Elsie and Adolph Gross, Melrose Park, PA. In honour of the 60th anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Abe Rubin, Stamford, NY - Saul Harris and Family, Stamford, NY. In memory of our dear friend, Victor Solomon - his family. In memory of our parents: Harry and Susan Schwartz; Samuel and Bessie Nudelmann - Matthew and Sylvia Schwartz, San Diego, CA. Miriam Banay Schwartz, Bronx, NY.

\$97 Anonymous, Cimarron, KS.

\$75 Anonymous, St. Petersburg, FL.

\$64.37 Anemir Domes, Munich, W. Germany.

\$54 In memory of our parents: Irving Strassman, Sarah and Alex Tamarkin - Judith and Michael Tamarkin, New York, NY.

\$50 E.L. Ehrmann, Santa Barbara, CA. Jamie Lee Farmer, Camden, MO. In honour of the 39th wedding anniversary of Leatrice and Herbert Solon - R.P. and G., Brooklyn, NY. In honour of our parents and grandparents: Mr. and Mrs. Israel Smith and Mrs. M. Greenberg - Jerome, Sharon and Judy Smith, Lexington MA. Betsy and Elaine Ackman, Richmond, VA.

\$40 In loving memory of dad - Michael Gene, Kibbutz Gueguz, Sacramento, CA. In memory of Sara Kestenbaum - Manfred and Sarah Schmidt, Jerusalem. Nina Bellows, Chicago, IL. Good marriage to all our family - Lillian and Morris Levin, Brooklyn, NY.

\$29 In memory of my parents, Anna and Murray Rosenfeld - Lila Shustky, Westport, NY.

\$25 Rabbi and Mrs. E.M. Kahan, Durham, NC. Lawrence and Linda Layler, Wilmette, IL. In memory of my beloved brother, Walter M. Gutzman - Hilda Daniel, Jerusalem. In memory of my mother, Herta J. de Koven, Cocoa Beach, FL. Sylvia and Edward Leimberg, Wilwood, NJ.

\$20 Alex and Lily Wies, Haifa. Ed Elkin, Kibbutz Gueguz.

\$18 In honour of all our friends and family at Kibbutz Maana - The Burgs, Albuquerque, NM. In memory of beloved Mary Piver - Dan Piver, Surfside, FL. In honour of Loren and Hille's upcoming marriage - Bayla Berlioz, Brooklyn, NY. In memory of my generous grandfather, Charles Finkel - Tivi Levontin, Merrick NY. In memory of my grandfather, Sarah Schwalb - Edna Berlioz, Brooklyn, NY. Philip and Miriam Shoen, W. Roxbury, MA. Pearl and Summer Kessler, Quincy, MA. William Frankel, New York, NY. In memory of Molly Levine - Doreen Ariel and Yeshiel Frieder, Upper Merionide, NY.

\$10 In honour of our daughter, Sheryl Rosenblatt's birthday and our anniversary - Bernard and Cecile Roth, Fair Lawn, NJ. Gazi and Noemi Forderer, Brooklyn, NY.

\$5 Mr. and Mrs. Ira Smith, W. Newton, MA. James L. Hillan, Woods, WI.

\$85 In honour of my brother-in-law, Jack Davies' 55th birthday - Malcolm Kayne, England.

\$4300 Ruth Jobst, Burgin, W. Germany.

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Festival of ironies

TELEREVIEW/Philip Gillon

WE USED to regard Hanukka as a great festival of freedom, the holiday on which we commemorate not only the miraculous oil, the lights and the cleansing of the Temple, but also the victory of a small, virtually unarmed nation against the might of Syria.

This Hanukka, I fear, will certainly be remembered as a Hanukka on which the festival was not of lights, but of darkness, because of the role that we are being forced to play as a result of the follies of the last 20 years. It is certainly a festival of ironies.

I remember how, in the early years after the Six Day War, Moshe Dayan, then minister of defence used to boast that one never saw an Israeli soldier or policeman anywhere in the territories, that never in history had there been so peaceful an occupation.

Somebody up there - or down below - must have been listening to Dayan opening his mouth to Satan, and must have laughed a soft, ironic laugh. Now there are hundreds of troops in the areas, and the policy is that of the iron fist, while the victims

include young boys and girls. As Professor Yeshayahu Leibowitz prophesied, the Six Day War is proving to be a Golem that may destroy us.

FROM THE TELEVISION viewer's point of view, the night of the festival began well enough, with Tom Brown and noble Dr. Thomas Arnold bringing the villainous Bully Flashman his just deserts, flogging and expulsion. The climax to the series was the great speech by Brooke, the captain of School House, urging the youngsters to eschew those great corrupters of the body and soul - tobacco, lechery and alcohol.

Although this speech was made 150 years ago in a book for boys, he sounded exactly like a 1987 medic warning against the same enjoyable practices, on the ground that they are calculated to cause heart diseases, cancer and AIDS. So the

wheel has come full circle - austerity is now seen as being as important as ever, although for new reasons, advanced by idolatrous doctors instead of muscular Christians.

I can well understand - although I certainly do not endorse - the views of those who look back with nostalgia to the days of the great TV strike, when we had no television news to disturb our tranquility.

Byron wrote contemptuously about the Greeks who wanted "to fill high the bowl with Samian wine" rather than face the truth of the Greek subjugation by the Turks. How much pleasanter it would be if we could not see what is being done in the name of our beloved country!

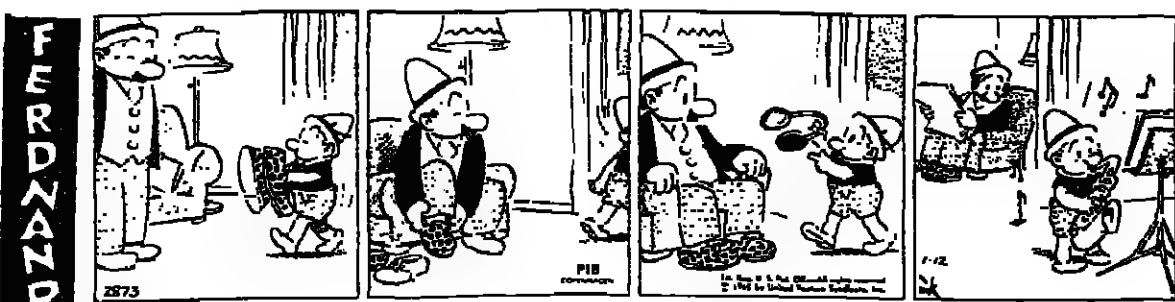
THE BLACK NEWS, of course, did not begin on the first night of Hanukka. Already, on Friday night, we had had Uri Goldstein's savage but memorable coverage on the

magazine of what was happening in the Gaza Strip. As Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres said on the programme, we saw the terrible conditions under which 650,000 people are living in a total area of 300,000 dunams, with inadequate housing, water, land and services.

In those early Dayan years, there was some talk about Israel assuming some sort of responsibility for the lives of these people. We seem to have given up all those efforts, to be relying only on the gratitude we expect from them because we pay them wages for their labour on our side of the Green Line. And, I suppose, we also expect them to be grateful for the iron fist.

On Tuesday, after seeing the riots in Gaza in which four people were killed and 11 wounded, we were taken on a brief visit to the famous Ariel Sharon party in the Old City of Jerusalem. It was uncannily reminiscent of innumerable films I have

seen, made by Cecil B. de Mille and his successors, of the rich and powerful frolicking while the earth under their feet is trembling. Sharon, for instance, lighting his candles, looked



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SECRETARY, mother tongue English, typing full/afternoon. Tel. 02-534535, 534037.

ENGLISH TYPIST, Hebrew desirable, co-acting, part/full-time. 02-270266.

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★ Pharmacists
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 Suitably qualified candidates are invited to apply in handwriting, giving curriculum vitae and details of experience, to the Personnel Dept., P.O.B. 406, Jerusalem 91131.



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 21 Washington Street
 Jerusalem 94187
 All applications will remain confidential

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Please send typewritten application with curriculum vitae to:
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 no later than January 10, 1988.

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 Dec. 25, 11:00 p.m. Christmas Day Family Communion
 Dec. 27, 9:30 p.m. Family Communion
 7:00 p.m. Evening Worship
 Dec. 31, 11:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Service

TECHNION Israel Institute of Technology

Required: For Office of the Spokeswoman:
English Journalist
 Job Description: Gathering information from the various faculties and departments at the Technion: writing and editing of press releases and articles for local and overseas media. The job also entails speech writing in English.

Qualifications: Academic Education
 Excellent writing skills (Mother tongue English)
 Good command of the Hebrew language.
 Experience in writing and editing of popular science material.
 Applicants are requested to apply in writing, including C.V., by Dec. 27, 1987

Manpower Division, Technion, Haifa 32000

Secretary-Typist — Office of the President

Qualifications: Mother tongue — English
 Ability to deal independently with correspondence.
 Excellent typing, shorthand an advantage.
 Good working knowledge of Hebrew.
 Part time position.
 Please reply in writing, including CV, by DEC. 27, 1987, to Manpower Division, Technion, Technion City, Haifa 32000.

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JERUSALEM

YERUSHALAYIM CENTRAL SYNAGOGUE. Fri., Mincha 4:25 p.m. Shabbat, Shabbat & Mincha 12:45, 4:05, Se'uda Shlishit Ma'ariv, 5:15. Hazan: Asher Haimowitz.

JERUSALEM GREAT SYNAGOGUE. Fri., Mincha 4:25 p.m. Shabbat, Shabbat & Mincha 4:00. Cantor: Naphthali Hershberg and Jerusalem Great Synagogue Choir, conducted by Eli Jaffe.

WORLD COUNCIL OF SYNAGOGUES. Conservative, 4 Agon, Friday, Mincha 4:20. Shabbat, Shabbat & Mincha 4:00. Rabbi Dr. Yosef Green. Hazan: Haim Haimowitz. Shabbat, Mincha 4:05. Daily minyan 7:00 a.m.

HEBREW UNION COLLEGE, Jewish Institute of Religion (Reform), 13 King David St. Sat. 9:30 a.m. Information on college programs; guided tour of campus. Services: 10 a.m.

HAR-EL SYNAGOGUE, (Progressive) 16 Shmuel Haazad, Tel. 02-33841, Friday 4:00 p.m. Shabbat morning 9:30, Rabbi Tova Ben-Chorin.

TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV GT. SYNAGOGUE. 110 Alenby Rd. Services conducted by Rabbi Haim Adler, accompanied by choir, conductor Menahem Lerner, Roshan date before Kabbalat Shabbat by Synagogue President Avraham Haimov. Mincha 4:10, Shabbat 8:00. At 4:00 p.m. on Shabbat: "Hannukha Proceps," Rabbi S.Z. Hochman, Yehuda Hall.

CHRISTIAN

JERUSALEM

REDEEMER CHURCH (Lutheran) Maristan Rd. Old City, Jerusalem. Sunday Services: English 9 a.m.; German 10:30 a.m. Tel. 2654-0, 829401.

CHRIST CHURCH (Anglican) opp. Citadel. Sun. 9:30 Family Communion, 7:00 p.m. Carol Service, Wed. 7:30 p.m. Bible Study, Thursday, 10:45 p.m. Communion. Christmas Day 11:30 a.m. Communion.

BAPTIST CONGREGATION, 4 Narkis, West Jerusalem. Sunday services: 9:00 a.m. Bible study, 10:30 a.m. Worship. Tel. 02-74659.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND near Railway Station. Dec. 21, 11:30 p.m. Candlelight service, Dec. 25, 11:00 a.m. Christmas service, Sunday morning service 10 a.m.; prayer service 7 p.m. Tel. 02-74659.

POSTECOSTAL WORSHIP SERVICE, MT. ZION FELLOWSHIP. 7:30 p.m. Fri., Sat., Sun., Tel. 828964.

ST. PAUL'S (Presbyterian), 32 Shvite Yisrael. 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Tel. 02-717988.

JERUSALEM CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY. YMCA auditorium, 26 King David St., Tel. 232016, Sunday, 7 p.m. Singing for the deaf.

JERUSALEM CHURCH OF GOD. "House Of Prayer For All People", Sat. 10:30 a.m. 18 Ein Rogel St. Tel. 718814.

NAZARENE CHURCH. 33 Nablis Rd. Services: Sun. 10, 11, 6; Wed. 5. Tel. 383828.

TEL AVIV

IMMANUEL CHURCH (Lutheran) Tel Aviv-Yafo, 15 Rehov Beer Hofman (near 17 Rehov Eilat). Tel. 820654, Saturday Service 11 a.m. Service in English every Sunday at 10 a.m.

HAIFA

ELIAS CHURCH (Lutheran) Haifa, 43 Meir Street. Tel. 04-523181, Sat. service 11 a.m.

OTHER CENTRES

BAPTIST VILLAGE CONGREGATION. 2 km. south of PETAH TIKVA. Saturday Service, Bible study 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Tel. 052-32832.

THE MIRACLE OF ISRAEL. Send for free Christadelphian review today: P.O. Box 1783, Jerusalem.

Notice in this column, which appears every Friday, cost NIS 9.90 per line, including VAT, per insertion, or NIS 29.65 per line, including VAT, per month.

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Tourists and Visitors. Come and see the General Israel Orphan Home for Girls in Jerusalem, and its manifold activities and impressively modern building. Free guided tours weekdays between 9-12. Bus No. 14, 24 or 5, Kiryat Moshe. Tel. 522291.

HADASSAH HOSPITAL. Ein Karem. Chagall Windows — synagogue open 8:00 a.m. — 4:30 p.m. Tours, Sun.-Thurs., hourly, on the half hour: 8:30 a.m. — 12:30 p.m. Fri. open 9:00 a.m. — 12:45 p.m. Tours, hourly on the half hour: 9:30 — 11:30 a.m. Entrance fee.

Half-day tours of the installations: Sun., Tue., Thurs. Details: 02-415333, 442771.

HEBREW UNIVERSITY

English tours daily Sunday through Thursday: 1. Mount Scopus, 11 a.m. from the Bronfman Reception Centre, Administration Building, Buses 8, 28, 46, 26 & 23 to the first underground stop 2. Givat Ram Campus, 9 & 11 a.m. from the Sherman Building, Buses 8, 28 & 24. Tel. 582819.

AMIT WOMEN (Formerly American Mizrahi Women). Free Morning Tours — Tel Aviv, Tel. 220187, 233154.

ORT. To visit our technological High Schools call Jerusalem 533141; Tel Aviv 386171, 233231, 240529; Netanya 33744.

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HAIFA

TECHNION — Israel Institute of Technology presents Jack Lamson's narration of "The Technion Experience" at the COLLEGE-CALIFORNIA VISITORS CENTRE. Tel. 04-210664, Sun.-Thurs. 8:30 a.m. — 2 p.m.; Fri. 9:00 a.m.

WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, dial 04-640840.

ART GUIDE

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JERUSALEM

Museums and Exhibitions

ISRAEL MUSEUM. Chinnisa Snuff Bottles, jade, coral etc.; Siegel Collection, Masterpieces in Jewish Art; Traditional Arab Handicrafts (Paley Centre); Henuka Lamp Collections (Ticho House); "Father Series," Nurt David; 0. Justen Lada, new work expressly for Israel Museum; 0. Captive Dream, Jerusalem 1987 Special Exhibitions.

The Priority Bookstore on Silver Scrolls by Naveg 1987, Magdalena Abakanowicz; 0. Emphasis, Arish Aroch, Michael Gross, Yigal Tamarin; 0. Tradition and Revolution: The Jewish Renaissance in Russian Avant-Garde Art; 0. Edomite Shrine discoveries from Givati, Naveg; 0. News in Antiquities '87; 0. Wondrous India; 0. Permanent Architecture, Heritage and Ethnic Art Exhibitions; Shrine of the Book (Dead Sea Scrolls).

Rockefeller (Archaeology) Museum: Crusader Art; 0. Animals in Ancient Art. Check ad in Magazine for visiting hours.

L.A. MAYER MUSEUM FOR ISRAELI ART. Visiting hours: Sun.-Thurs. 10-1; 3:30-6. Fri. closed. Sat. and holiday even 10-1. Holidays: check with Museum, 2 Hapetmach St., Tel. 02-6612912. Bus No. 15.

OLD YERUSH COURT MUSEUM

Life in the Jewish community in the Old City, mid-19th century-World War II, 8 Or Haim, Jewish Quarter, Old City. Sun.-Thurs., 9 a.m. — 4 p.m.

SR ISAAC AND LADY EDITH WOLFSON MUSEUM at Meishel Shalom: Special Exhibitions: Special Henuka Exhibition. Permanent exhibition of Judaica. Diorama Room: History of Jewish People.

SARFALL MUSEUM of Biblical Archaeology of the Hebrew Union College, 13 King David Street, Tel. 203333. Visiting hours: Sun.-Thurs. 10-4, Fri., Sat. and Hol. 10-2.

MISHKENOT SHA'ANANIM. Exhibition: Photos in Colour 1937 to 1957, Yoram Haimel Impressions, Natchum Tim Gidal.

SHOCKEN INSTITUTE & LIBRARY. 8 Belfour St. Tour and exhibition of Ancient Books and Illuminated Manuscripts, Sunday and Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. — 4 p.m. Entrance free. Public invited.

TEL AVIV

Museums

TEL AVIV MUSEUM. Exhibitions: Roy Lichtenstein (U.S.A.), Drawings; 0. Marc Chagall (mostly watercolour & gouache); 0. Menashe Kadishman: Myth Transformed — Painting & Monumental Sculpture; 0. Treasures of the Bible Lands Museum. Admission free.

HAIFA

Museums

THE REUBEN AND EDITH HECHT MUSEUM. Haifa University. Archaeological exhibition of objects on various themes and all periods. Special exhibit on excavations of the Temple Mount, Jerusalem. New exhibits: "Jewish Art on the Golan." Open Sun.-Thurs. 10-5; Fri. closed. Sat. 10-1. Free entrance.

HAIFA MUSEUM. 26 Shabbat Levi St. Tel. 523255. Exhibitions: Music and Ethnology: The Art of Portlaine;

Modern Art — Vincent — Yigal Tamarin. Ancient Art — Egyptian textiles, terracotta figurines, Shikmona finds. Open: Sun.-Thurs. 10-1, Tue. & Sat. also 8-8.

MAHATZ MUSEUM. Antiquities Museum. 89 Yafa Nof St. Haifa. Tel. 04-335422.

OTHER CENTRES

SAFAD. Israel Bible Museum. Experience the Bible through the art of international artist, Philip Rimmer. Open daily, Sun.-Fri. 10-2; Sat. closed. Tel. 086-73472. Admission free.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

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Jerusalem: Aza, 15 Derech Aza, 638262; Balsam, Salah Eddin, 272315; Shu'afat, Shu'afat Road, 810108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 282058.

Tel Aviv: Bavi, 1 Uziel, corner 10 Teladno, Bavi neighbourhood; Shor, 54 Hamelech George, 280644.

Be'er Sheva-Kfar Sava: SuperPharm, 3 Otschinsky, Kfar Sava.

Netanya: Maxim, 2 Salomon, 617836. **Kiryat Arca:** Arlosoroff, 9 Yitzhak Haasasi, Kiryat Hayim, 727720. **Haifa:** Hama, 22 Hama, 231905.

Saturday, December 19

Jerusalem: (day) Kupat Holim Chik, Romema, 523191; (evening) Keren Avraham, 19 Zephania, 820650; (day and evening) Balsam, Salah Eddin, 272315; Shu'afat, Shu'afat Road, 810108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 282058.

Tel Aviv: (day and evening) Briut, 28 Hamelech George, 283731; Tzafon, 33 Yehuda Hamacabi, 449895.

Be'er Sheva-Kfar Sava: (day) Hasharon, 55 Derech Hasharon, Hod Hasharon; (evening) Kinneret, 119 Weizmann, Kfar Sava.

Netanya: Maxim, 2 Salomon, 617836. **Kiryat Arca:** Bialik, 15 Derech Yerushalayim, Kiryat Bialik, 721290.

Haifa: Kiryat Eliezer, 6 Kikar Meyershoff, 511707.

DUTY HOSPITALS

Friday, December 18

Jerusalem: Hadassah Ein Karem (pediatrics, internal), Hadassah Scopus (obstetrics), Shaare Zedek (surgery, orthopedics, ophthalmology), Bikur Holim (E.N.T.).
Tel Aviv: Rotah (pediatrics, internal), Ichilov (surgery).
Netanya: Laniado.

Saturday, December 19

Jerusalem: Shaare Zedek (pediatrics, obstetrics, surgery, orthopedics, ophthalmology), Bikur Holim (internal, E.N.T.).
Tel Aviv: Rotah (pediatrics), Ichilov (internal, surgery).
Netanya: Laniado.

POLICE

Dial 100 in most parts of the country. In Tiberias dial 924444, Kiryat Shmona 4444.

FIRE

In emergencies dial 102. Otherwise, dial number of your local station as given in the front of the phone directory.

DENTAL

Tel Aviv: Dental Association clinic 48 Rehov Bar-Kochba, Friday: 6 p.m. to midnight; Saturday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tel. 03-284649.

Emergency Services — Shabbat and Holidays 8 p.m., weekdays 4:30 p.m. — 10

p.m., 25 Ahimel Street, Ramat Aviv Gimmel, Tel. 03-425832.

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In emergencies dial 101 in most parts of the country. In addition:
 Ashdod 513333 Jerusalem 523133
 Ashkelon 22333 Kiryat Shmona 94334
 Bat Yam 551111 Kiryat Shmona 94334
 Beersheba 74757



Advertisements can be placed in Lush Ma'ariv at advertising agencies and Lush Ma'ariv offices only. Classified advertisements reaching the Lush Ma'ariv head office by 5 p.m. on Thursday will appear in this section on Friday.

For sale, Hamada 14 printing machine. Tel. 03-614040.

Washing 4000, wide 7 heads; planer, 4 sides, 50cm. wide, 03-923535.

Air Conditioners
Bergan, before sale in price! New and reconditioned air conditioners, guaranteed, all types. Immediate supply. 03-727255, 03-73208, 03-737374; evenings, 03-622540.

Boats
Fiberglass boat, English made, new in Israel. 03-555514.

Catman Hobbit 16, wonderful, splendid colors + trailer. 03-555572, 03-555533.

Computers
Campaign IBM, Tivoli compatible, 1.250 + VAT, peripheral equipment, complete, on-line, published. 03-612748.

Computerized equipment operator required, high school graduate, computer school preferred, after army, up to 30, short work, not suitable for students. Dan region residence and phone essential. 03-530108, from Sunday, 12:00-16:00.

New! Transforming monitor (PAL system) into television + teletext. 03-555572, 03-555533.

Stairlifts, purchase, exchange and service at client's home. 03-700690.

TV
ZAG Computer, almost new condition. 03-622540.

TEAG Computer Services Ltd., import, marketing, and servicing of computers and peripheral equipment, specializing in IBM compatibles, Apple, Commodore, etc. Sole distributor: Com-PC-IT, AT, Bergamo, Chard. 03-523690-9, TL3711636, TEAG.

CL Computers, exchange of old computer/printers for new. 03-477133, 03-477134.

Bargain, Arnie 500 A computer, 1M8, color, two disk drives. 03-734718.

Bargain, printer for P.C. and Apple. 03-734718.

Commodore, IBM, servicing, purchases, sale, exchange, for personal, business and educational computers. 03-707919, 03-622540.

Carpet
Messager required + materials. 03-734718.

Persian carpet, Karman, blue, medallion. 3,10x24, 03-734514.

For sale, handmade Arab carpet, beige + 4,50, needs carpet. 03-734514, evenings.

Clothing
Bargain, beautiful wedding gown, complete, prestigious, imported. 03-555544.

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Yamaha FE 30 organ, sophisticated, new, 31,000, 03-622540.

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Yamaha PS 8000 organ, complete new, in packing. 03-622540.

Elka EH 108 electronic keyboard, 8 octaves with internal amplifier, for sale, 1,100, 03-622540.

For guitarists! New shipments of Fender and Ibanez acoustic and electric guitars have arrived! Direct from importer, Hailit, Kiryat Haim, Haifa.

For guitarists! New shipments of Fender and Ibanez acoustic and electric guitars have arrived! Direct from importer, Hailit, Kiryat Haim, Haifa.

Amara 22, side-by-side doors, excellent condition. 03-724841.

Bargain 20, good condition, bargain, 03-622540, evenings.

Bargain, refrigerators for sale, less than 2 years experience in planning. 03-555584, 03-517477.

Security officer for Erez Yarmouk Museum, Tel Aviv, army combat unit, or volunteer, Ramat Hasharon, 03-415244, Zehava.

Seeking experienced beauty consultant. 03-522543, 03-323442.

Seeking top-notch printer for GTO, good terms. 03-505234.

Serious young man, after army, technical background, Bogen, 03-555584, 03-517477.

Stamps
Dr. Volk public auctions for coming spring auction reserves various equipment, books, Judaica and books. For reserve price and phone and we will mail you up to 30, short work, not suitable for students. Dan region residence and phone essential. 03-530108, from Sunday, 12:00-16:00.

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Programming engineer required for development, real time, knowledge of C, BASIC, language and 8086 P.C. 03-522540, evenings.

Required, construction engineer with at least 2 years experience in planning. 03-555584, 03-517477.

Security officer for Erez Yarmouk Museum, Tel Aviv, army combat unit, or volunteer, Ramat Hasharon, 03-415244, Zehava.

Seeking experienced beauty consultant. 03-522543, 03-323442.

Seeking top-notch printer for GTO, good terms. 03-505234.

Serious young man, after army, technical background, Bogen, 03-555584, 03-517477.

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Stilton company for distribution of communications equipment seeking experienced salesperson and service technician. 03-732042.

Remat Gan has required skilled clerk for 745660, not Shabbat.

Commercial company requires bookkeeper (f), full time, 5 days, 2 weeks experience, preferred. 03-707146, ext. 36.

Industrial company, Petah Tikva, requires experienced bookkeeper, full time, 07:00-15:00, computer experience preferred. 03-619193.

Company calculator, Holon area, immediate work, for available. Tel Aviv, 03-297013.

Experienced accountant required for part-time position. P.O.B. 1334, 128444, Tel Aviv.

Graduate required for editing and proofreading technical literature, outstanding Hebrew, good English, full time, Sunday-Thursday, 03-555584, 03-517477.

Required, experienced bookkeeper + saleswoman, Holon area, import company, full time, 07:00-15:00, computer experience preferred. 03-555584, 03-517477.

Transportation company requires experienced driver, full time, 07:00-15:00, computer experience preferred. 03-555584, 03-517477.

Bookkeeper, grade 2 minimum, for part time job of twice weekly, evening and weekend. P.O.B. 1658, Tel Aviv 61164.

Bookkeeping for self-employed and companies, annual reports with experience and good accounts. 03-555584, 03-517477.

Bookkeeping office requires experienced bookkeeper for temporary work. 03-555584, 03-517477.

Public institution requires grade 2 bookkeeper, full time, 07:00-15:00, computer experience preferred. 03-555584, 03-517477.

Qualified grade 2 bookkeeper, full time, 07:00-15:00, computer experience preferred. 03-555584, 03-517477.

Seeking experienced bookkeeper, full time, 07:00-15:00, computer experience preferred. 03-555584, 03-517477.

Transport company requires experienced driver, full time, 07:00-15:00, computer experience preferred. 03-555584, 03-517477.

Accountant, vast experience in auditor and financial management, office in Tel Aviv. P.O.B. 2740, 03-555584, 03-517477.

Accountant's supervision of bookkeeping, computerized salaries, balance sheets, tax files. 03-555584, 03-517477.

Accountant's office requires accountant, 545270, 545174, evenings.

Independent bookkeeper, good conditions. 03-297321, 03-555584, 03-517477.

Experienced bookkeeper required for Tel Aviv office. 03-542414, P.O.

P.O. keyboard operator required, experienced for bookkeeping in private industrial factory in Holon. 03-61121-3.

Commercial company requires experienced driver, full time, 07:00-15:00, computer experience preferred. 03-555584, 03-517477.

Text consulting office requires bookkeeper, full time, Tel. 03-61205, 03-61206, from Sunday, 03-555584, 03-51747

ISRAEL'S submission this week to European demands that West Bank farmers be allowed to export their produce directly to the European Community came as no surprise. Despite the underlying political reasons which motivated the European demand, the hard facts of economic reality forced Israel's hand.

The ending of the dispute paved the way for a new trade accord between Israel and the EC, approved by the EC Executive Commission and now awaiting ratification by the European Parliament. This agreement, which Israel desperately needed following Spain and Portugal's entry into the Community, gives Israel greater access to the European market for its agricultural products as well as providing additional tariff cuts.

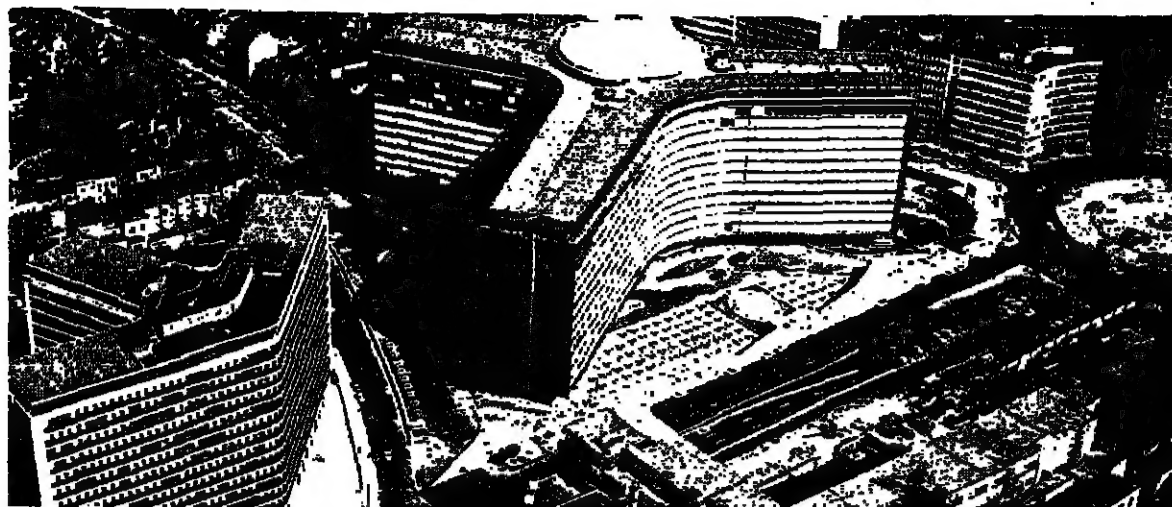
The negotiations surrounding this accord were held up for months because of some EC members' demand that Palestinian farmers in the territories be allowed direct access to Europe's markets. Until now, Palestinian farmers have had to export their goods via Israeli marketing bodies such as Agrexco.

Israeli officials in Brussels argued that although they had no opposition to West Bank goods bearing stamps stating their area of origin, direct export would lead to these products undercutting the price of blue-and-white goods marketed through Agrexco. Direct exports from the West Bank, they noted, would also signal the end of Agrexco's marketing monopoly and once Palestinian farmers were allowed to establish their own marketing outlets, groups of Jewish farmers might also want to be free of Agrexco's control.

While no official, either Israeli or European, was prepared to state publicly that the EC position was motivated by desires to underline Europe's determination to treat Israel and the territories as two separate political entities, the impression

Israel bows to reality of European markets

West Bank farmers are to be allowed to export directly to Europe. That is the price Israel paid to gain greater access to the EC's markets, writes Jeff Black, who recently returned from Brussels where he attended a seminar on the EC run by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation.



In Brussels was that this was very much the case.

Another reason for the EC insistence on direct export from the territories centres on European suspicions that Israel is violating agreements with the Community concerning West Bank products. Under these agreements, West Bank goods do not enjoy the same preferential status as Israeli produce. But one highly-placed EC official accused Israel of cheating on these accords, stating that West Bank produce was being marketed in Europe as Israeli, thus gaining

unwarranted tariff benefits.

On the Israeli side, Ya'acov Malka, the commercial attaché for Belgium and Luxembourg who was appointed by the Industry and Trade Ministry, pointed out that Agrexco provided a convenient and well-trusted address for European importers dealing with Israeli produce.

Malka noted a week before the new trade accords were signed that with good will on both sides, this dispute between Israel and the EC could be easily solved. He did not hide his bitterness at EC Commis-

sioner for Mediterranean Countries Claude Cheysson's reported statement earlier this month in Amman that if Israel did not back down in its refusal to allow direct exports, then it would have serious difficulties in its relations with the Community.

Stressing that this was a personal view, Malka said Israel must never give in to such blatant intimidation. He noted that Israel was a good customer of the EC and should therefore be treated with respect and not a "big stick."

LAST YEAR, Israel imported \$5

billion worth of goods from the EC and exported \$2.2 b. to Europe. As much as 87 per cent of the country's trade deficit lies with the Community. In 1992, the 12 member-nation community is scheduled to become a free-trade zone with the abolition of all internal tariffs and customs duties between the countries. Moreover, this open market will apply to Israeli exports to the EC, while Community members will also have free access to Israel.

This could lead to a worsening of Israel's trade gap with Europe. According to Malka, local exporters will have to become stronger, more efficient and less pricey if they are going to be able to compete for a slice of the European pie.

The majority (around 85 per cent) of Israel's exports to the EC come from 100 or so big local firms, but the remaining 15 per cent are supplied by small companies who, said Malka, often fail to understand the European mentality and give Israeli goods a bad name.

From a pile of letters on his desk, Malka pulled out two examples of Belgian firms ending their trade ties with Israeli companies because of the latter's inefficiency.

"Sometimes Israeli firms don't even bother to answer orders," Malka said. "When the firm here asks me to follow up on what has happened, the Israeli company asks me why the rush, the telexed order only arrived a week ago."

This is just not good enough, he declared, observing that exporting to Europe is an entirely different proposition than exporting to the United States.

"In the U.S., a large proportion of Israel's customers are Jews, but in Europe there are no Jews to speak of — it's just a simple matter of business," he said, adding that good business entails punctuality and reliability no matter whether you are an Israeli manufacturer or a Palestinian farmer.

Beit Shemesh Engines has a future Treasury's quick axe could cost Israel important industries

Avi Temkin

IN 1985, the Treasury Budget Department decided that Beit Shemesh Engines, the crisis-ridden plant which had been mismanaged for some years, should be closed. After several attempts at revitalizing the company, the Treasury decided there was no point trying to save it.

The Treasury decision regarding BSE was symptomatic of its attitude regarding industries in distress. It was much simpler to close down a plant than to search for ways of getting it back on its feet.

At the end of 1985 and in early 1986, BSE was suffering an operational loss of \$1 million a month. Its accumulated debts totalled \$100 million. While the Treasury wanted to close it, the government, which owned BSE together with the American firm, Pratt and Whitney, did not know what to do.

It was the culmination of a sad story which included faulty decision-making by poor management. At one point, there had been 14 deputy general managers, 30 division heads and 1,300 workers in a plant which even today, with 680 employees, is apparently overstaffed. Pratt and Whitney had threatened that if no private buyer could be found for the government shares, it would simply recall its \$10 million investment.

Some months ago, when the cabinet decided to terminate the Lavi fighter project, many thought the fate of BSE was sealed, since BSE was to be one of the plants engaged in manufacturing the engine for the planned fighter.

BUT INSTEAD of collapsing, BSE has been showing marked improvement. Its operational losses have dropped by more than half, and there are orders totalling \$30m. from the Air Force, from Pratt and Whitney and from General Electric, another American engine manufacturer.

Government officials and senior managers at BSE now recognize that the Treasury's attitude was wrong. BSE has a future, as developments in the past several months have shown. In fact, there is a good chance that in the future it could be brought out of the red.

Officials at BSE and the government agree the BSE's workers insistence that the firm be given another chance was not unfounded. "The firm could have been in a much better position by now, if the Treasury had invested its energy in trying to solve its problems rather than in liquidating it," BSE officials say.

The Finance Ministry's determination to see BSE liquidated made its problems more acute. As Moshe Levi, the head of the workers' committee, puts it, "The Finance Ministry wanted to create an image of BSE as a doomed plant, a firm that could not be saved."

But the Finance Ministry's attitude harmed BSE beyond harming its image. The ministry did not consider it necessary to pay back the accumulated debts of a plant which it considered doomed. High interest rates and previously accumulated

debts combined to very quickly produce liabilities, which soon reached the astronomical sum of \$100 million.

If the Treasury would have decided to keep BSE alive, and pay back its accumulated debts, the situation would have been completely different today. Treasury officials still believe that from an economic point of view, their determination to close BSE was correct. But they admit that they did not take into consideration the fact that politicians would simply not tolerate shutting down a plant, since it is located in a development town.

NOW, THEY SAY, steps should be taken to revitalize the company. In the near future, some 230 additional workers will be dismissed.

This will cost the taxpayer much money, since these workers will have to be offered compensation equivalent to that offered workers being dismissed from Israel Aircraft Industries.

But the dismissals are essential, government officials say. In fact it was one of the conditions set by Steif Wertheimer to agree to receive the government's share in the company.

Wertheimer told the government one year ago that he would be ready to accept ownership — for free — of BSE on condition that the firm's debts be paid by the government and that the work force be reduced to no more than 450 workers. There is every reason to ask why the government should transfer its share in the ownership of BSE to a private industrialist for free. After all, it is taxpayers' money which has revived BSE, allowing it to show signs of potential profitability. BSE will be sold as an ongoing concern, and a price should be paid for it.

During the past year, the Ministerial Economic Committee met three times to discuss BSE. During each of these meetings, the ministers removed more and more of the original conditions set by that same committee to sell BSE to Wertheimer. Eventually it decided to agree unconditionally to his demands.

Meanwhile, Wertheimer has announced that he is no longer interested in BSE. He claims that the Treasury dragged its feet, and prevented the conclusion of the deal. The Treasury still hopes he will reconsider his position.

The ministers' willingness to grant BSE to Wertheimer for free is just another aspect of the Treasury's success in convincing most of the cabinet that BSE has no future. Why should the public sector agree to assume large losses, and manage the seemingly unmanageable BSE, when Wertheimer was willing to take over the firm? This is the type of mentality which allowed the taxpayer to pay the costs of rehabilitating BSE, while letting a private industrialist enjoy the benefits.

The conclusion one can draw from the case of BSE is not limited to that plant. There are many firms which are threatened with financial disaster. If the standard response is going to be to close down each one of those companies, then it is likely that the economy will suffer a steady loss of industrial potential.

THE FIRST real sign that the Israeli government was serious in its intent to sell off major companies that it owns was when it admitted that it didn't know how.

Such an admission could not come easily to any government, or to any Israeli, let alone to an Israeli government. That it came at all is due to Ze'ev Refuah, the head of the Government Corporations Authority (GCA), the Treasury department in charge of overseeing and ultimately controlling firms the government owns.

Refuah was persuaded by former finance minister Yitzhak Moda'i to leave his private-sector cubbyhole, where he was boss of Niku Computers, and move to the GCA with the unusual task of reducing, not increasing, its power.

For over two years, Refuah and his team laboured to sell, directly or through the local stock exchange, some small- and medium-sized government-owned firms. This taught him that there was no way that his department, or any Israeli firm even outside government, could successfully manage a full-scale privatization programme of the sort envisaged.

So Refuah took off for London and New York to learn the techniques of privatization and to seek out foreign investment banking firms that could advise on and then implement an overall, long-term sales programme.

He met many firms, but he ended up with a short-list of three candidates for the preliminary stage of putting together a programme of which firms to sell, in roughly which order, and by what method.

The Boston Tea Party

The change in Israel's economic environment has made privatization possible, says First Boston's Pedro Kuczynski.

Pinhas Landau

that "this is all strictly business," — although no one will admit it — to highlight the fact that major houses with no past Israeli background or special Jewish orientation in management or clientele were interested in coming in on the Israeli privatization.

In any event, Shearson was pretty sore, and quickly made it clear that the second-fiddle role that the government had tossed it was not acceptable. It will come in on the second stage, of bringing companies to market, but is not involved with the overall planning.

WHY DID First Boston seek the job, and what is it doing? For that matter, what is First Boston? Ignore the misleading name. Headquartered in New York City and with a London-based partner, Credit Suisse First Boston, First Boston is one of the five or six top investment banks on Wall Street. It shares the top spot in domestic underwriting with Salomon Brothers, while the London unit, in which it holds 40 per cent, is the largest underwriter in international business.

First Boston's balance sheet totalled \$48.6 billion at the end of 1986 (almost as much as Hapoalim and Leumi combined) and its capital funds stood at over \$1.3 b. (as much as Leumi and Discount together). Its trading departments do about 7

per cent of the total volume on the New York Stock Exchange, working with wholesale, rather than retail, customers.

Of more immediate concern, it has become an important force in the world privatization market, especially in developing countries. The man who heads this area of activity is Peruvian-born Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, whose titles include being one of the 130-odd managing directors and, specifically, co-director of the bank's international finance arm. His unit has, according to Kuczynski, done more "exotic" privatizations than its rivals. These are complicated deals, "tailor-made" for specific circumstances and not "off-the-peg" sales as in Britain and elsewhere.

This area of specialization bears Kuczynski's personal imprint. Before he joined First Boston in 1982, he had already put together a varied career. Brought up on English in his native Peru, he studied at Oxford and then Princeton before joining the World Bank in 1961. Since 1969, he has been an international bureaucrat at the IMF and back at the World Bank, an investment banker at Kuhn Loeb, the head of an international mining firm, and minister of energy and mines in Peru for two years, before returning to private sector investment banking at First Boston. Not bad for the first 50 years.

For his next trick, Kuczynski is going to tell Israel how to privatize — while juggling ongoing deals around the world. "What a relief," he said after ending a telephone conversation in Spanish during our interview. "I don't have to fly to Brazil tomorrow. I can go next week instead. I only got back from Colombia two days ago."

HE CLEARLY finds the Israeli assignment intellectually intriguing. "We're dealing with a country which used to be the epitome of anti-privatization, while the government-owned sector contains a great diversity of companies in terms of size and areas of business."

But professional stimulation is hardly sufficient grounds for taking the job, which had to be okayed by First Boston's top level manage-

ment, presumably for what are euphemistically known as "political" reasons. Nor is the advisory role a money-maker in its own right. The aim, according to Kuczynski, is to get into position for the second stage, of taking the companies to market.

He sees First Boston's advantage in this respect as stemming from its international reach, and its broad expertise. The bank's mergers and acquisitions group has 180 people including analysts for every major industry, so he feels "quite comfortable" with the various prospective sales, be they Bezek, El Al or Israel Chemicals.

The change in the Israeli economic environment has obviously persuaded him that privatization can happen. Refuah, particularly, made a strong impression in his sales pitch, while he has spoken to all the ministers involved to "try and gain their confidence," and found the response "very encouraging."

The approach of the elections in Israel means that "it is vital to sell one or two big issues quickly and successfully" — perhaps as soon as the spring, if the market conditions improve and if the companies can be gotten ready.

Critics still voice suspicions of First Boston's real motives in all this. Some people say that they want to show participation in the Israeli programme so as to impress home and overseas clients, but will not actually do much in the second stage. This means that their role as adviser is the kind of "loss leader" that supermarkets use to attract customers.

Maybe. But if that is so, First Boston is making a very good pretence of taking its job seriously. It has rented an apartment near the King David Hotel to serve as an office, has delegated an ex-Israeli on its staff to be permanent representative, and appointed three team-leaders to oversee the corporate analyses, while seeking local talent to do much of the spadework. The results of this effort will emerge in the report.

But even if First Boston should choose not to compete for the real action of stage two — which would contradict its declared aim in taking on the advisory role in the first place — there are other firms very eager to take its place.

This article is the second in a series on privatization.

The Economics pages are edited by Economic Editor Shlomo Maoz.

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Elscent reports operating profit

By PINHAS LANDAU
Post Finance Reporter

Elscent Ltd. achieved an operating profit of \$1.04 million for the quarter ended September 30 - the first time since March 1985 that the crisis-ridden medical-imaging firm has seen black ink.

After finance and other expenses, Elscent lost a net \$950,000 in the July-September quarter, and for the half year through September the net loss was \$5.6m. These figures compare with losses of \$8.25m. and \$19.25m. for the second quarter and first half of the 1986/87 business year.

The figures provide strong evidence of a continuing improvement in the company's fortunes, after it lost \$116m. in 1985/86 and \$51m. in 1986/87. A further improvement in

the current quarter could see the company break even, or possibly make a net profit.

Elscent has thus followed its fellow-sufferer in the high technology sector, Scitex Corp., by regaining a measure of profitability at the operating level through increasing sales, while cutting costs sharply.

Sales in July-September totalled \$38.7m., up from \$34.2m. in the immediately preceding quarter. For the April-September half year, sales were \$71.2m., up from \$64.1m. in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Gross profit margins for the latest quarter and half were 41 percent and 38 percent respectively. Both of these figures represent an improvement of 4-5 per cent over the equivalent year-earlier periods.

Elscent's second debt-rescheduling agreement with its banks, completed during the reporting quarter, gave the company a one-time income of \$38.3m., so that the formal bottom line showed a profit of \$37.35m. for the quarter and \$32.67m. for the half. However, these huge profit figures are essentially meaningless, and the net profits before extraordinary items is the one that best reflects the company's true position.

'No change in stock trading'

Post Finance Reporter
Tel Aviv Stock Exchange General Manager Yossi Nitzani Wednesday denied reports that the bourse would be revamping its trading system again, just two weeks after altering its trading hours.

Since December 6 the 25 most actively traded shares have been traded using the variable price system at the same time as the rest of the share market, which uses the old system of a single daily price fixing.

Nitzani dismissed reports that the change had flopped and that the exchange was considering dropping the variable price system altogether starting next month. He told *The Jerusalem Post* that most exchange members were satisfied with the system, although it was too early to judge whether the new times set for trading were in fact an improvement over the old system.

Oil falls below \$15 a barrel

LONDON (Reuters) - The spot market price of North Sea Brent crude oil tumbled below \$15 a barrel yesterday to its lowest for a year, traders reported.

A cargo of Brent, a widely-traded crude which serves the industry as a pricing barometer, changed hands in Europe at \$14.50. The price has declined by almost \$2 since Monday, when an Opec meeting ended with no more than a makeshift agreement to curb overproduction in 1988.

One trader said the agreement by

the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries had done nothing to check what he called a "vicious spiral of hopelessness" in the market. "The market may as well just go until it finds its bottom - if it's got one," the source added.

Yesterday's prices were the lowest for Brent since December 1986 and more than \$6 below a 1987 high of \$20.90 in early August. On Monday, Opec set a 15.06 million barrel per day (bpd) output ceiling for 12 members with the 13th, Iraq, refusing to join.

Behind the fuel price cuts

Oil prices in the world markets are plunging. But don't imagine for a minute that this was the reason behind the government's decision to reduce the price of heavy residual fuel 16 per cent and fuel for the petrochemical industry by 4 per cent. The real reason for the joint Treasury-Energy Ministry decision is the battle over the exchange rates.

The government has two ways to keep industry profitable in an economy where prices and production costs are rising while earnings in some sectors are frozen or even falling because of Bank of Israel's policy to keep a nearly-stable exchange rate. The first way is to order a devaluation, which enables exporters to obtain more shekels for each unit of foreign currency they earn.

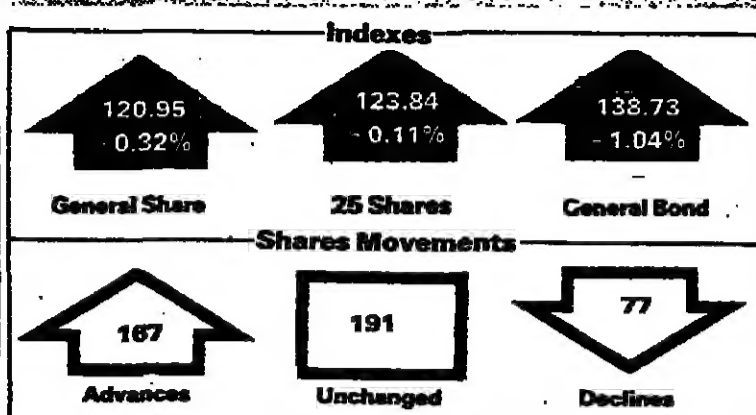
The other way is to reduce costs. Twice this year, for instance, the government has cut employers' payments to the National Insurance Institute. Since prices in Israel are continuing to rise at a pace of three times those of the industrialized countries who make up Israel's chief trading partners, the government



decided this time to cut the heavy oil prices. Fortunately, the situation in the world oil market made it easier for the government to do so.

At the same time the dollar is plunging. If the Bank of Israel were to stick to its declared policy of not devaluing the shekel, the dollar would already be below NIS 1.55. But even the Governor of Bank of Israel, Michael Bruno, knows that he cannot rely on a policy of continued upward revaluations of the shekel against the dollar. That is why the central bank decided yesterday to devalue the shekel slightly against the currency basket. In doing so, the central bank prevents the dollar from falling below the NIS 1.55 mark.

A devaluation is inevitable. The dollar is falling, but the pressure for devaluation is rising.



Selected Prices

Name	Price	Volume	% change
Commercial Banks			
Bank Leumi	22400	100	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1400	100	-0.1
Bank Mizrahi	12500	100	-0.1
Bank Discount	8000	100	-0.1
Insurance			
Meir	10000	100	-0.1
Leumi	10000	100	-0.1
Real Estate			
Leumi	10000	100	-0.1
Industrial			
Leumi	10000	100	-0.1

25 Shares

Name	Price	Volume	% change
Bank Leumi	22400	100	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1400	100	-0.1
Bank Mizrahi	12500	100	-0.1
Bank Discount	8000	100	-0.1
Insurance Meir	10000	100	-0.1
Insurance Leumi	10000	100	-0.1
Real Estate Leumi	10000	100	-0.1
Industrial Leumi	10000	100	-0.1

Statistics

Stock Indices 535763

General Share (incl. arrgmt.)	120.95
Non-arrgmt.	123.84
Arrangement Banks	138.73
Insurance	120.95
Commercial & Services	123.84
Real Estate & Agric.	138.73
Industrial	120.95
Food & Tobacco	123.84
Metals	138.73
Chemicals	120.95
Electronics	123.84
Transportation	138.73
Investment Cos.	120.95
Oil Exploration	123.84
Paralel Lux	138.73

Bond Indices

Index-Linked Bonds	124.29
Partially Index-Linked	125.50
Foreign Currency	120.95
FC denominated	123.84
Short-term 0-2 yrs	138.73
Short-medium 2-5 yrs	120.95
Medium-long 5-7 yrs	123.84
Long-term 7+ yrs	138.73

Turnovers

Total Shares	NIS 5,822,100
Non-arrangement	NIS 7,460,800
Arrangement	NIS 2,121,600
Bonds	NIS 4,853,200
Shares Bids	NIS 25,336,000

Share Movements

Advances	167
Unchanged	191
Declines	77
of which 5%+ buyers only	12
of which 5%+ sellers only	12
Trading Halt	43

Bond Market Trends

Index-Linked	Steadily mixed
Partially Index-Linked	Steadily mixed
Foreign Currency	Steadily mixed
FC denominated	Steadily mixed
Short-term 0-2 yrs	Steadily mixed
Short-medium 2-5 yrs	Steadily mixed
Medium-long 5-7 yrs	Steadily mixed
Long-term 7+ yrs	Steadily mixed

Arrangement Yields

Index-Linked	12.15%
Partially Index-Linked	12.25%
Foreign Currency	12.35%
FC denominated	12.45%
Short-term 0-2 yrs	12.55%
Short-medium 2-5 yrs	12.65%
Medium-long 5-7 yrs	12.75%
Long-term 7+ yrs	12.85%

European Financial Markets (Dec. 17)

Precious Metals	Libor Rates
Gold London a.m. (in \$)	8.75
Silver London p.m. (in \$)	8.75
Platinum London p.m. (in \$)	8.75
Forward rates	8.75
3 months	8.75
6 months	8.75
12 months	8.75

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Shekel Deposits (annual rates)

Bank	Deposit	Pack	7 days	14 days	30 days
Bank Leumi	100,000	11.00	13.00	14.00	15.00
Bank Hapoalim	100,000	11.00	13.00	14.00	15.00
Bank Mizrahi	100,000	11.00	13.00	14.00	15.00
Bank Discount	100,000	11.00	13.00	14.00	15.00
Bank Leumi	100,000	11.00	13.00	14.00	15.00
Bank Hapoalim	100,000	11.00	13.00	14.00	15.00
Bank Mizrahi	100,000	11.00	13.00	14.00	15.00
Bank Discount	100,000	11.00	13.00	14.00	15.00

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates, Dec. 18)

Currency (min. deposit)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$100,000)	7.250	7.500	7.750
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	2.875	2.875	2.875
Japanese yen (100,000)	2.250	2.250	2.250
Deutsche mark (DM 200,000)	2.875	2.875	2.875

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates (Dec. 17)

Currency	Rate	Rate	Rate
U.S. dollar	1.5616	1.5616	1.5616
Swiss franc	2.8750	2.8750	2.8750
Japanese yen	2.2500	2.2500	2.2500
Deutsche mark	2.8750	2.8750	2.8750
French franc	2.2500	2.2500	2.2500
Italian lira	2.2500	2.2500	2.2500
Spanish peseta	2.2500	2.2500	2.2500
Portuguese escudo	2.2500	2.2500	2.2500
Belgian franc	2.2500	2.2500	2.2500
Dutch guilder	2.2500	2.2500	2.2500
Australian dollar	2.2500	2.2500	2.2500
New Zealand dollar	2.2500	2.2500	2.2500
South African rand	2.2500	2.2500	2.2500
Israeli shekel	2.2500	2.2500	2.2500

EUROPEAN FINANCIAL MARKETS (Dec. 17)

Precious Metals	Libor Rates
Gold London a.m. (in \$)	8.75
Silver London p.m. (in \$)	8.75
Platinum London p.m. (in \$)	8.75
Forward rates	8.75
3 months	8.75
6 months	8.75
12 months	8.75

Foreign Currency Crossrates (London 15:30 GMT)

Currency	Rate	Rate	Rate
U.S. dollar	1.5616	1.5616	1.5616
Swiss franc	2.8750	2.8750	2.8750
Japanese yen	2.2500	2.2500	2.2500
Deutsche mark	2.8750	2.8750	2.8750
French franc	2.2500	2.2500	2.2500
Italian lira	2.2500	2.2500	2.2500
Spanish peseta	2.2500	2.2500	2.2500
Portuguese escudo	2.2500	2.2500	2.2500
Belgian franc	2.2500	2.2500	2.2500
Dutch guilder	2.2500	2.2500	2.2500
Australian dollar	2.2500	2.2500	2.2500
New Zealand dollar	2.2500	2.2500	2.2500
South African rand	2.2500	2.2500	2.2500
Israeli shekel	2.2500	2.2500	2.2500

Share indices

Commerzbank 60 stocks	1,348.1 -8.8
Financial Times 100 stocks	1,704.7 +14.8

NEW YORK FINANCIAL MARKETS (17.10.87)

U.S. Money Rates	Fed funds (late)	Long-term bond	Discount rate
Prime rate	8.75%	8.75%	8.75%
NY Fed (12 months)	8.75%	8.75%	8.75%

New York Foreign Exchange

Currency	Rate	Rate	Rate
U.S. dollar	1.5616	1.5616	1.5616
Swiss franc	2.8750	2.8750	2.8750
Japanese yen	2.2500	2.2500	2.2500
Deutsche mark	2.8750	2.8750	2.8750
French franc	2.2500	2.2500	2.2500
Italian lira	2.2500	2.2500	2.2500
Spanish peseta	2.2500	2.2500	2.2500
Portuguese escudo	2.2500	2.2500	2.2500
Belgian franc	2.2500	2.2500	2.2500
Dutch guilder	2.2500	2.2500	2.2500
Australian dollar	2.2500	2.2500	2.2500
New Zealand dollar	2.2500	2.2500	2.2500
South African rand	2.2500	2.2500	2.2500
Israeli shekel	2.2500	2.2500	2.2500

Wall Street (Prices as of 16:00 GMT)

Market Indices	NYSE Highest Volume
DJ Industrials	1,234.24 -60.23
DJ Transport	1,234.24 -60.23
DJ Utilities	1,234.24 -60.23
Stocks	1,234.24 -60.23
NYSE Comp	1,234.24 -60.23
NYSE Inds	1,234.24 -60.23
NASDAQ	1,234.24 -60.23
S-P 500 Index	1,234.24 -60.23
S-P Comp.	1,234.24 -60.23
Amex Index	1,234.24 -60.23

Statistics

NYSE Volume	192,503,000
NYSE Stocks	502
NYSE Bonds	1,234.24
NASDAQ	1,234.24
Volume	148,248,400
Stocks up	1,508
Stocks down	858

Comment:

The profit-taking that pushed the market lower all day yesterday intensified in the final minutes of the session. The decline was partially a result of growing apprehension ahead of today's expiration of index futures and options, and individual stock options, traders said. A sharply lower dollar also worried investors and caused them to take some profits on the 107-point gain posted in the last three days.

Israeli Stocks Traded in New York

The profit-taking that pushed the market lower all day yesterday intensified in the final minutes of the session. The decline was partially a result of growing apprehension ahead of today's expiration of index futures and options, and individual stock options, traders said.

A sharply lower dollar also worried investors and caused them to take some profits on the 107-point gain posted in the last three days.

